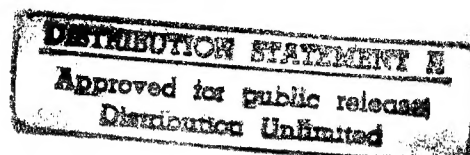


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JPRS-NEA-84-031

27 February 1984



Near East/South Asia Report

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27 February 1984

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REPORT BY FOREIGN TRADE BANK SUMMARIZED

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic No 55, Dec 83 p 30

[Article: "Morocco Held Firm in 1982, Thanks to the Policy of Caution"]

[Text] A report was recently issued by the Moroccan Bank for Foreign Trade concerning the fiscal year 1982. The report shows Morocco's economic situation during that year in light of the international economic situation. In addition, it sets forth the development of the country's budget and situation.

The report says that in 1981 Morocco was affected by a drought that damaged its agricultural season and, consequently, its gross domestic product. However, the heavens were generous with rain in 1982 and so the results were better. Nevertheless, the international economic crisis heavily influenced the positive factors.

Despite all this, says the report, Morocco's efforts at development continued. The state's investment in the area of infrastructure rose from 9.6 billion dirhams in 1981 (the dollar is equal to 7.5 dirhams) to 12.5 billion in 1982, meaning that an increase of 30.2 percent occurred.

The gross domestic product increased by 5.6 percent, after having fallen 1.3 percent in 1981. The credit for this is basically due the agricultural sector. It should be pointed out that the magnitude of both public and private investment increased in a concrete fashion. Gross fixed capital formation reached 20.3 billion dirhams, as compared with 16.9 billion in 1981. This means that the increase amounted to 20.2 percent, as compared with 14.7 percent in the previous year.

With respect to the agricultural sector, the grain harvest leapt forward by 131 percent. This means that it increased from 21.2 million quintars to 49 million. Despite this increase, it still did not meet the needs of the country.

The production of legumes increased by 232 percent. That is, it rose from 0.6 million quintars to 2.2 million. It continued to be 11 percent lower than the harvest for the seasons from 1978 to 1980.

The production of beets and sugar cane rose by 3.2 percent, meaning that total output was 2.8 million tons, from which 374,000 tons were produced. Cotton

production amounted to 19,900 tons, meaning that an increase of 6.5 percent occurred. Citrus production fell to 977,000 tons due to unfavorable climatic conditions, while citrus exports fell by 12.4 percent. Europe took 396,000 tons of citrus, while the other markets accounted for about 209,000 tons.

Morocco's mineral exports were small in comparison with last year, as a result of international conditions. Mineral exports showed no growth. Rather, a fall-off occurred in some cases, especially with respect to iron, copper, zinc and antimony. However the group belonging to the Moroccan Phosphates Office strengthened its position in the international market for phosphate and its derivatives, thanks to a commercial policy which adapted to the predominating circumstances. At the same time, efforts continued to industrialize 30 percent of natural phosphate production locally. The new chemical complex will double the amount of phosphoric acid which the country can export in 3 to 4 years. Exports of raw minerals, which consisted largely of phosphate, were worth about 4,113,000,000 dirhams in 1982, as compared with 4,487,000,000 dirhams in 1981.

The deficit in Morocco's balance of trade increased. Inflation, which afflicted the whole world, and the rise in the exchange rate of the dollar were the chief causes of this deterioration. Morocco exported 18.3 million tons of goods and materials, which were worth 12.4 billion dirhams. In 1981, it exported 19.7 million tons of goods worth 12 billion dirhams. As for the country's imports in 1982, they amounted to 10.7 million tons worth 25.9 billion dirhams. In 1981, Morocco imported 10.9 million tons worth 22.4 billion dirhams.

Similarly, the cost of living index rose 10.5 percent in 1982, as compared with 12.5 percent in 1981. The credit here is due to the policy of fighting inflation. The budget deficit amounted to 10.4 billion dirhams, as compared with 12.8 billion in 1981. The money supply increased by 11.2 percent, as compared with 15.5 percent in 1981. Similarly, bank loans increased by 17.2 percent, while loans intended to finance exports and investment rose by 46 percent.

The bank's report says that Morocco has been able to stand firm in the face of the international crisis without foregoing development, thanks to its cautious economic and financial policy and the diversity of its resources and industrial structure.

With respect to the performance of the bank, its budget by the end of 1982 amounted to about 6,159,500,000 dirhams, as compared with 5,018,000,000 dirhams in 1981. The bank's total budget amounted to 8,586,000,000 dirhams. Deposits increased by 264.6 million dirhams, with checking accounts amounting to 744.5 million dirhams, current accounts to 1,064,400,000 dirhams, and savings accounts to 134.09 million dirhams. Time accounts amounted to 734.6 million dirhams, while accounts payable amounted to 833.9 million dirhams. Short-term loans amounted to 2,181,100,000 dirhams, while long-term loans amounted to 190.07 million dirhams. Unclassified loans amounted to 44.6 million dirhams. Treasury bonds amounted to 1.2 million dirhams. The bank's profits amounted to 65.8 million dirhams.

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MOROCCAN MINISTER OF EQUIPMENT KABBAB INTERVIEWED

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic No 55, Dec 83 pp 28-29

[Interview with Mohamed Kabbaj, the Moroccan minister of equipment, by Husayn Fawwaz: "Korean Companies Have Harmed Arab Contractors"; date and place not specified]

[Text] In an interview with AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL, Minister Mohamed Kabbaj assessed the accomplishments of Morocco's Ministry of Equipment and demanded that economic integration among the countries of the Arab Maghreb be implemented quickly. Here is the interview:

[Question] The Ministry of Equipment was recently established in Morocco. What are the most prominent accomplishments which have been achieved so far?

[Answer] It is well known that Morocco possesses an important infrastructure network, although it is not an oil country, as are some Arab states. The state became aware of the importance of infrastructure, which it came to see as the first incentive for the economic sectors and a basic factor in assisting them to develop. Let us take roads as an example. Since independence, the state has spent large sums in order to provide a modern network of roads which has facilitated communications and lowered the number of accidents. We now possess 26,000 kilometers of serviceable roads, all of which are in good condition. We are currently working to open up new highways and maintain the extant roads.

With respect to ports, Morocco had only Casablanca in the era of colonialism. It used to monopolize 95 percent of the Moroccan economy. Therefore, in the era of independence the state has spent huge sums on the construction of ports, especially since Morocco has a very important location on the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Work proceeded along two tracks: the first called for developing all of Morocco's regions in the same way, while the second consisted of building specialized harbors. This is a new kind of work for Morocco. Today, we have come to possess 20 harbors in numerous locations with various specializations. Let me mention the port of al-Jarf al-Asfar, which specializes in phosphate and phosphate derivatives. It can accept ships with a capacity of 100,000 tons. Then there is the rebuilt port of Casablanca, which can handle all types of ships, especially container vessels. There is also the port of Mohammedia, which is still under construction. It will specialize in petroleum and will be able to accept vessels with a capacity of 150,000 tons. As for the city of

Agadir, its harbor can no longer handle all the work it gets. Therefore, we have begun to build a huge harbor which will be the equal of that at Casablanca. In the next stage, all of Morocco's shores will have large harbors outfitted to accept various kinds of ships. This policy has produced effective results, for the region of North Africa has flourished and received investments now that it has been supplied with a suitable portal to the sea.

As for water, this is a problem from which most Arab countries suffer. There is no need to spell out the importance of water. Rather, it suffices to say that if Morocco had more water, its economic capacity would be many times greater. Therefore, we had to have a water policy. This led to the policy of building dams, which have been the object of criticism by some countries which say that the development of industry is more advantageous. However, experience has demonstrated that our policy was on the mark. Today, we can provide irrigation for more than 800,000 hectares. This is especially important because Morocco is interested in stimulating agriculture. With respect to water distribution, we have been able to supply industry and the inhabitants of the cities with what they need, despite the drought we have been experiencing for 4 years. Other countries, after all, suffer from the problem of water too, although they have large amounts of water. One thinks of Spain and the south of France.

In order to gain the greatest benefit from our water supply, we have conducted an experiment which is unique in the Arab world. We have used the same water for more than one purpose. We have transported it from one reservoir to another across long distances so that it could be reused for generating electricity or irrigation. Therefore, I can say that we are capable of confronting any increase in the demand for water in the areas of industry, agriculture and drinking water.

As for the other utilities, such as the post, the telephone system and transportation services, they belong to other ministries. However, mention must be made of Morocco's airports, since we now have eight international airports distributed across the country.

[Question] Is it possible to say, therefore, that Morocco has reached the point of saturation with regard to infrastructure?

[Answer] We cannot reach that stage in the complete sense of the word as long as needs are increasing and the economy is constantly developing and growing. However, one can say that planning and implementation are going on constantly in order to meet the needs which arise in all areas. It suffices to say that infrastructure's share of the state budget is more than 60 percent. If we take as an example the dam sector's accomplishments, we find that Morocco now possesses 33 large dams which provide a large and sufficient quantity of water and electricity. However, we are still planning and building more dams. The most prominent among them is the Missirat Dam, which will have a capacity of 2.1 billion cubic meters of water. Moreover, we have initiated the construction of large dams in the Oued el-Akhdar region, as well as in the vicinity of the city of Marrakech and in southern Morocco. In addition, we have dug a canal 120 kilometers long to bring water to the Marrakech Dam, because that region lacks water. This project will help to meet the needs Marrakech has for drinking and irrigation water.

Cooperation with the Arab States

[Question] Is there cooperation with the Arab states in the field of infrastructure?

[Answer] Naturally, there has been cooperation on the level of financing, since the projects we have undertaken have been large and needed huge amounts of financing. Therefore, some help has been given by some Arab states. However, one must point out that only limited economic development can occur in Morocco without Arab economic cooperation. Morocco will not be able to establish broad-based economic relations with the countries of Europe because the difficulties are great. For example, Morocco's agricultural output is significant. However, it cannot be disposed of in the European countries, especially since the Mediterranean countries produce similar goods. The same is true of industry, construction and infrastructure. Morocco's capacities exceed its needs. In addition, Morocco needs many things. For example, in the area of studies and research it is impossible for a state like Morocco to possess diversified technical capabilities in all fields. Even a great nation like France does not possess all these capabilities. Because of all this, a more comprehensive model must be devised for Arab economic cooperation. An Arab economic block must be created, thereby providing a huge market with integrated production and consumption capacities.

Morocco and the Conference of Arab Contractors

[Question] What role can the Conference of Arab Contractors in Casablanca play on the level of Arab cooperation in the field of contracting?

[Answer] I followed the founding meetings of the Arab contractors with interest. I suggested to Morocco's representatives in the Arab states that they encourage the institution of cooperation among Arab contractors. We hope that the Casablanca conference will issue a series of decisions which will direct the Arab governments toward giving the larger share--if not the entirety--of Arab projects to Arab contracting companies. What happened in the past had a negative effect on the Arab contracting sector, especially since the foreign companies which came to the Arab world benefited. The benefit they provided could have been provided by Arab companies. Moreover, the phenomenon of foreign workers, especially in the case of the Korean companies, has harmed Arab contractors. We also hope that there will be a chance for Arab companies to work in all the Arab markets. It is true that a Gulf company might offer a lower price than a Moroccan company in the beginning, but gradually, as time passes, it will be possible for things to clarify and for cooperation to spread.

Contracting in Morocco is free of restraint, in accordance with the economic system. It is also completely Moroccan. However, we have a large area of operations in the fields of construction, road-building, farming and canal construction. Currently, we use the services of foreign companies only for the construction of large dams and harbors, on the condition that a Moroccan company must take part in the project as well. Foreign cooperation is essential in large projects like these, because the problem is not merely technical. There is a financial problem as well. Therefore, I think that there must be Arab cooperation in the field of contracting. We must establish large contracting companies

with financial resources and high-level technical capabilities, so that they will be able to execute large projects in the Arab countries.

Linking Africa to Europe

[Question] What stage has been reached by the studies of the project to link the African continent with Europe?

[Answer] Since the visit of the King of Spain to Morocco in 1979, initial studies of the project have been started with Spanish--Moroccan cooperation. These studies have shown the great importance of a land road between the two continents. Therefore, we asked the international agencies to give us their advice. International experts came and were shown the studies we had done. Moreover, the economic council of the United Nations issued a recommendation calling for participation in the execution of this important project. The recent studies have produced more than 30 ways to execute the project. After sorting them, we came up with three solutions. One of them is to dig a railroad tunnel. Another is to build an automobile bridge. We are now preparing a final study, which discusses the question of how to obtain financing from countries or banks. However, the important thing about the project is that it would revitalize the old dream of supplying Europe with natural gas from Africa.

The Economic Unity of the Maghreb

[Question] Is it now possible to talk about an economic federation for the countries of the Arab Maghreb?

[Answer] All through history, the Maghreb has never been divided into countries. Ibn Khaldun did not talk about countries, he talked about tribes. We in the countries of the Arab Maghreb have true integration. We number 50 million souls, and that number will reach 100 million by the century's end. The areas are large and wide. They contain energies which are sufficient for the needs of the region. We have petroleum and minerals, and we can be self-sufficient in terms of agriculture.

The important thing is that the potential for integration exists. We have wasted a lot of time and should not continue to ignore the potential for an economic federation of the countries of the Arab Maghreb. We had set up a firm link with Algeria, which was an extension of our internal markets. Moreover, a large number of Moroccans used to live in that brother country. Despite political problems, I think there is reason to hope that firm cooperation can be re-established so that we can attain economic integration in the Maghreb.

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NORTHERN COMMANDER ORR INTERVIEWED ON SETTLEMENT ISSUE

Ofra NEQUDA in Hebrew No 65, 4 Nov 83 pp 4-7

[Interview with Maj Gen Orri Orr, outgoing central commander, by Isra'el Har'el and Haggai Segel: "I Do Not Favor the Settlement of Jews in Arab Settlements"; date and place not specified]

[Text] A change of command in the lion's den. Maj Gen Uri Orr is leaving for another assignment. He is leaving his successor, Maj Gen Amnon Shahaq, an inheritance like the one he received from his predecessor, Lt Gen Moshe Levi: quiet external borders alongside a seething internal front, Judaea and Samaria. Just let it not be worse.

The last half year that Orri Orr spent in the central command was also the most difficult in his term there. The events in Hebron and the unceasing attacks on Jewish transportation in Judaea and Samaria almost resulted in chaos. "Believe me," Maj Gen Orr told NEQUDA, on his last day in the central command, "we burned the midnight oil night after night in this office in an attempt to find the best possible solution that would put an end to the attacks on the settlers in Judaea and Samaria. We have had some successes, but there is no perfect solution."

Luck was on Orri Orr's side, and during his term here he was not forced into unpleasant experiences as was the fate of some of his predecessors: the evacuation of "illegal" settlements. Nevertheless the historians among the settlers will probably note one event, at least, that clouded their relationship with the outgoing general: the fact that he did not prevent "Peace Now" demonstrators from ascending on independence day to the place where the Har-Brakha settlement's dedication ceremony was taking place and disrupting it. Maj Gen Orr was asked for an explanation of the incident in this interview.

[Question] Maj Gen Orr, what significant changes have occurred on Israel's eastern front during the period of your tenure as general of the central command?

[Answer] The major significant occurrence during the period of my tenure on the eastern front is the protracted war between Iran and Iraq. Indeed, this war has removed the immediate danger of war on our eastern border, but, at the same time, the eastern front is still our major front. In fact, from a strategic point of view, the northern front belongs to the eastern front.

One of the worrisome processes that began in the last 2 years on the eastern front is the strengthening of the Iraqi army. Iraq has, in fact, doubled the strength of its army during the course of the war. The Iraqi army today numbers more than 20 divisions; that is a large number which would have been beyond the capability of the Iraqi army 2 or 3 years ago. Indeed, it is difficult to gauge the parallel qualitative increase that has occurred in the Iraqi army, but it is clear that its war with Iran's army, a war that has lasted 2 years, has provided a lot of military experience to its officers and enlisted men in the use of modern weaponry and in the conduct of battles. This has seen the use of the world's most modern weapons: attack helicopters, missiles, etc.

If tomorrow there should be a peace agreement between Iran and Iraq, it is likely, of course, that Iraq would turn against us a significant portion of the divisions that she has recently amassed. This growth has also occurred in the Syrian army, which today numbers 400,000 draftees. Syria today would like to build a large army which would be able to fight Israel alone, without relying on the help of other Arab enemies.

As far as Jordan is concerned, the principal danger that she poses to us is the very fact of her being open territory for the support and operation of the eastern front. Fortunately, the internal relations in the Jordan-Iraq-Syria triangle are not good, and it therefore does not pose for us any immediate danger. However, things could change over night.

[Question] Do you favor joint Arab-Jewish residence in the cities of Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] I have witnessed more incidents of friction than of peaceful co-existence. Then, too, the cities that were mixed before the establishment of the state--Haifa, Tzefat, etc.--were not particularly successful. By the way, the Arab dignitaries from Hebron who met recently with the minister of defense did not come out against Qiryat 'Arba', but against the Jewish settlement within Hebron itself. Apparently, this is what is causing the ferment.

The overriding question is, do the Jews who want to live within an Arab population in fact want to establish a basis for coexistence or do they perhaps want to "throw out" the Arabs? I suppose that most, in fact, want the first possibility, but the local Arabs feel otherwise.

In my opinion, as long as there is no peace, we will not succeed in creating a framework for coexistence. In this regard, I am more pessimistic than others. The framework for coexistence is not like the worm in the apple, cut off from everything going on around it. Today, after the Peace for Galilee war and the weakening of the PLO's influence in Judaea and Samaria, we can discern, here and there, the first glimmers of a search for solutions based on coexistence by the local leadership, but it is hard to point to a clear process that would lead to the finding of such a solution.

[Question] The settlers in Judaea and Samaria are aware of the efforts invested recently by the security forces to prevent attacks on Jewish transportation on the highways of Judaea and Samaria.

Nevertheless a large portion of the settlers has a strong feeling of insecurity in everything connected with travel on the roads. Do you, perhaps, have any good news for them?

[Answer] That is a good question. It seems to me that everywhere today the settlers lack the patience that characterized them in years past. Many more stones were thrown in Shechem in the past than are being thrown now in Hebron, and, despite that, the residents of the area were far more patient about it. They shouted less. It seems to me that behind some of these demands for increased security on the roads lurk certain political intentions. I am not naive.

It is true that there is insufficient security on the roads. I am only happy that today people are afraid of rocks and not of weapons and bombs. This fact alone is testimony to the improvement that has occurred in recent years in Judaea and Samaria from the security point of view. Of course, there have been a number of serious attacks recently: the murder of Aharon Gross, may he rest in peace, and the murder in the Hebron college. Nevertheless, relative to the size of the Arab population, about 750,000, we can say that we have had no little success in dealing with the problem.

We must remember that, within the territory today, two entirely different sets of values are in constant conflict. This conflict prevents us from finding a proper solution to the problem of stone throwing. If someone in the settlement camp wanted me to give an order to shoot a stone-throwing child, he was disappointed. I did not give and would not give such an order because I do not believe in it. I won't raise my soldiers or my son on such an order. It doesn't matter whether that "solution" would solve the problem. The deposed mayor of the town of Shechem, Bassam Shaq'ah, once said: "I wish that every day an Arab child would be killed in Samaria, and that they would not go to school." That statement testifies to the gulf between the two camps that I spoke about above and also speaks to the value of the above suggestion.

The way to deal with the problem of the stones is, in fact, difficult and complicated. After all, we operate only in accordance with the law and with all of its restrictions. We do not operate in a void, and there is a framework which constrains us. Nevertheless, I am convinced that we can still find many courses of action within the framework of the law. I believe, for example, that the police, because of problems of budget, manpower, etc., have not been sufficiently severe with the two populations of the area.

The Karp report claims that the police are unequipped today to enforce the law on the Jewish settlers of the area, but to my mind it is equally unequipped to do it with respect to the Arab population. In fact, we do not make sufficient use of the law. For example, only half of those caught throwing stones are brought to trial--because of technical restrictions on the introduction of proof.

[Question] Is your attitude, the attitude of the security forces, to the throwing of stones the same as to a hostile terrorist act or is it simply another crime? Do you support the deportation of stone throwers to Jordan?

[Answer] Throwing stones at passenger cars on the roads of Judaea and Samaria is considered a hostile act, but it is not up to the military to decide if a stone thrower should be deported to Jordan. The punitive system, in assessing penalties, takes into consideration the age of the accused and the extent of the damage which his action caused.

In any case there is nothing that can be done about some 17-year-olds who return from school and decide to hide behind a wall and throw stones at cars. It is impossible and would not be worthwhile to station soldiers on every street corner. In fact, we have improved the means at our disposal for dealing with the epidemic of stone throwing and have even made some progress, but there is no complete solution to the problem. I agree, of course, with those who say that we have to create a situation in which the juvenile delinquents will be afraid to throw stones.

[Question] The heads of the Kibbutz movement have repeatedly come out against having their settlement nuclei serve in military strongpoints in Judaea and Samaria. Have you encountered, at these strongpoints or at any other military base in Judaea or Samaria, any refusal on the part of soldiers to serve in these areas?

[Answer] No. I have not encountered any problems on that score. It is funny, but this business of refusing to serve in Samaria, which never went beyond a few isolated cases, has completely disappeared since a similar problem surfaced in Lebanon. There, too, we are not talking about serious dimensions.

The rule about service in the military strongpoints in Judaea and Samaria is the same as the rule about military service anywhere else. There is no end in Israel today to points of disagreement and no end to topics of controversy. The army is the single thread which ties all the ends together, and it must be protected from such things. A soldier may think and speak, but he must not take the law into his own hands because our survival is at stake.

Recently several members of Qiryat 'Arba' protested to me and complained about the stationing of a certain reserve battalion commander who, in civilian life, belongs to "Peace Now": "Where did you suddenly come up with the idea of bringing one of these "Peace Now" characters to Hebron?" I told them that he was a battalion commander in the IDF and he would serve here just as he would anywhere else. I am a general of the entire people, and my battalion commanders are a part of that people, whether they belong to Gush 'Emunim or to "Peace Now."

[Question] Your leaving the central command is a good opportunity to clear up a certain matter which 6 months ago affected the relations between the settlers in Samaria and the army: the matter of the ceremony that did not come off in Har Brakha on Independence Day. In a NEQUDA interview, Benny Qatzover, the head of the Samaria area council, blamed the army at the time for permitting the Peace Now demonstrators to go the place where the ceremony was to be held and cause it to be canceled.

[Answer] Benny Qatzover and I have since then sat down and explained to each other what really happened that day. In principle I authorize, or do not

authorize, the holding of demonstrations only on the basis of security considerations. Political considerations play no part. If I can protect a certain demonstration, I will authorize it. When Rabbi Levinger came to ask me for authorization to demonstrate by the administration building in Hebron, he got permission; when the committee of Israelis for Bir Zayt came to ask me to demonstrate, they got permission; when Peace Now wanted to demonstrate in the quarter, they did not get permission to do so in the quarter itself but only at a distance, but they received permission in principle and they demonstrated. In short, only security considerations apply here.

As to Independence Day in Har Brakha: I made the assessment at that time that if I would not authorize the Peace Now people to demonstrate, they would do everything in their power to get to the place and disrupt the ceremony. What happened in the end? The organization was theirs, and it was defective. The organizers were the ones who allowed the Peace Now buses to go up to the mountain and seal off the roads. In addition to everything else, there was rain and mud. To come and blame all that failure on the army is not fair. It seems to me, by the way, that the demonstrators themselves were disappointed, no less than the organizers, by the cancellation of the ceremony.

[Question] The Peace for Galilee war has caused the reservists who live in the settlements and serve in the "All Round Defense Formation" a lot of frustration. They felt that being stationed in units of the "Open Spaces Defense Force" made them second class soldiers since the majority of them are former members of battle units that, in the past, took part in Israel's wars. The Peace for Galilee war simply passed them by.

[Answer] There is some validity to the feelings of frustration. We are now trying to get to the point where those reservists with a battle profile who reside in the settlements and "All Round Defense" posts will be able to make full use of their capabilities and be able to do their reserve service not only in Judaea and Samaria but also in other areas of the country and in Lebanon. The main problem in the way of implementing this desire is a budget problem and the lack, at this stage, of a proper command base. There are many good soldiers and officers in the settlements who are not interested in serving in the "All Round Defense Formation." This is also a problem.

It is worthwhile to add something else on the matter of "All Round Defense": There is no justification, in my opinion, for a situation in which settlements "20 minutes from Kfar Saba" are to be considered as front-line border settlements, with all that that implies regarding the service of their inhabitants in the "Open Spaces Defense Force." Within 2 years, the rule that applies to Kfar Vitkin on this matter will apply to 'Elqana, for example.

[Question] A while back you suggested to the heads of the YESHA' council that they bring their security problems to the command. What exactly did you have in mind?

[Answer] I simply wanted to implement here a procedure that was tried on the Golan Heights, in the Upper Galilee, etc. I thought there was no need to lock up everything connected with daily security problems in the settlements with the

heads of the councils themselves. I wanted a central body. With such a body I could sit and listen to complaints as well as to suggestions. Unfortunately, for their own reasons, the committee is not functioning.

[Question] Rafel, in a declaration before the High Court of Justice, said that it was impossible to defend the lowlands without the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. Do you agree?

[Answer] It is not my intention to get into the specifics of what you asked and say something like "Brakha contributes to the security of Judaea and Samaria, 'Ofra and Elon-More contribute a little bit less while Qedumim doesn't contribute at all...." I won't do that, of course. I will only say that I have no doubt that a soldier will fight better on the Jordan River when he knows that in Petza-el, behind him, and in Ma'ale Ephra'im and other places there are women and children. I also have no doubt that with a quarter of a million Jews in Judaea and Samaria, it would be very safe here.

[Question] During your tenure a civilian administration was set up in Judaea and Samaria. In retrospect, was it necessary?

[Answer] There are many things that I would not want to deal with as a general. I mean everything concerned with the administration of the daily civilian life of the inhabitants here. You and I both want, of course, to get to a situation in which there will be no army at all in the area. The civilian administration is the outcome of such a desire. You, as citizens who live here, should be happy about it.

[Question] More than three hundred members of the Village Leagues go around today in Judaea and Samaria armed with weapons supplied to them by the civilian administration. Are you happy with this situation?

[Answer] Not a single weapon was supplied to the village leagues without my authorization--after proper recommendations from people who have the authority to make them--and until now, almost 2 years after the founding of the leagues, almost no problems at all have surfaced with respect to the improper use of a weapon, and there is not even one instance in which it was employed against Jews.

The village leagues, by the way, are not in my opinion the only solution. I think that you have to talk to everyone, including the local leadership centered in Ramallah, Shechem and Hebron and not just in the villages. This has to do with what I said at the beginning: It is impossible to nurture local leadership in isolation from what is happening around it.

[Question] Command generals are, by nature, sort of "temporary guests," who come to an area for just 2-3 years and then leave for other command posts in other places. With respect to the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, what impressions are you taking with you?

[Answer] I had no preconceptions before I got here, and I therefore managed to learn a lot. Being a moshavnik almost from birth removed any question of a problem of acclimatization. Whenever I would arrive for a visit in this or that

settlement, I always looked for the plantings and the fields. ("I didn't always find them, settlements today are not always agricultural.") I also was given to respecting any body which had an ideology. Just a few weeks ago I was in the second series of Tabernacles processions in the settlement of Adam and was very excited, together with my wife, with the people who showed up, with the dancers, with the enthusiasm. In places like these, you feel a kind of power in the air.

A very important fact that I learned here is that even though from a distance all the inhabitants are portrayed as one body, there are, among the settlers themselves, many differences. Even in Qiryat Arba'...nothing here is made of one skin.

In the course of my assignment I met with all the extremes in Judaea and Samaria, Jews and Arabs. At times I was amazed at the enormous gap in understanding. For example, when I was in the Golan I read about it in the paper. Here I saw the abyss from close up and was amazed. Bridging the two positions is the most important issue at hand.

[Insert: "The Motto"]

[Text] Even when---rarely---he is in civvies, he looks like a general: tall, solid, inspiring confidence. The fig leaf and sword on his shoulders fit him to a tee. Those in the know claim that the central command has opened the way for him to the highest position in the IDF.

But no one was born a general. Not even Uri Orr, a native of Petah-Tiqva, who grew up in Lur Ha'im in the Hefer valley: "A happy childhood with shoes cut open in front so that there would be room for the toes of my feet, which grew with the years." The fragrance of oranges in the village, the beach sand on the horizon, Amos Oz, Naomi Shemer and A. B. Yehoshua were his "home."

When he was drafted into the IDF, after the Sinai campaign, he asked to be a paratrooper. The army decided otherwise, and Pvt Uri Orr went on to the armor corps to be patrol company commander in the Six Day War, tank battalion commander in the war of attrition along the canal in the final years of the sixties, brigade commander on the Golan in the Yom Kippur War and task force commander in the Litani campaign. Four years ago he was appointed head of the central command staff. Two years ago he became command general. In the ceremony of transfer to his successor, he warned that "we must not allow the public debate over the future of Judaea and Samaria to invade the ranks of the army. The IDF must remain above that debate. This is the secret of our strength." That is also Uri Orr's motto.

INNER RUMBLINGS WITHIN NRP DESCRIBED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Dec 83 p 7

[Article by Amnon Barzilai: "Rumblings in the NRP"]

[Text] MK Yehuda Ben Me'ir succeeded in surprising his opponents in the NRP. Even his few friends were not let in on the secret of his plan to resign from the foreign ministry. The lecturer in social psychology at Bar Ilan University, the polished and experienced politician who, in the last 2 years, reached the top of the ministerial staircase, was forced to retreat. Precisely at the time when he had reached the summit of his personal advancement, Ben Me'ir lost his political base. The fractured NRP has known a long and glorious list of crushed bodies over which he callously tread on his drive for power, but even its people were amazed by his decision to resign from the post of deputy foreign minister. This decision is doubtless the fruit of the deep crisis in the NRP. While Ben Me'ir was busy with cocktail parties with ambassadors and heads of state, the NRP was falling apart. From Ben Me'ir's personal viewpoint the significance of this was that he would not be able to cover the Knesset benches with the NRP banner.

Too many internal events were taking place in recent months for Ben Me'ir to remain indifferent and calm in the Jerusalem office buildings of the Foreign Ministry. In recent weeks it became clear that not only his personal political fate was in danger. In fact the entire extraordinary plant which Ben Me'ir had established with his friend and confidant of the last 20 years, Zvulun Hammer, was collapsing. At party headquarters they are already playing the "swan song" of the "youth" faction which the two friends had set up, which was also known by the pretentious name of the "party for religious renaissance."

With the resignation of Ben Me'ir as deputy foreign minister, there is no one at this stage to influence the Likud-headed coalition. As head of the NRP faction in the Knesset, Ben Me'ir is entrusted with its day to day functioning, but he does not have the power to change its direction. In the youth faction he is second in command after Hammer. No one will follow him if he should decide for some reason to change political horses. Ben Me'ir, born in the United States, 44 years old, acquired many enemies during the 20 years of his political activity. Last week one of the NRP heads said that Ben Me'ir--about his part, which has not been erased, in the destruction of the NRP's

image in the eyes of both the religious and secular public--was not only a disaster for the NRP but also a disaster for Zvulun Hammer, who so depended on him and who served his whims. But for his advice and enormous influence, Hammer could be counted among the leaders acceptable to all of the NRP's divisions.

In the eyes of many, Ben Me'ir is a genius. In 1950 he immigrated with his family to Israel, studied at the "Bilu" elementary school, and afterward at the "New Settlement" Yeshiva. He returned to the U.S. and was ordained as a rabbi at Yeshiva University under Rabbi Dr Joseph Soloveitchik. Afterwards he continued with his studies--in social psychology at Columbia University in New York. His doctorate was on the differences in the degree to which it is possible to influence the different sexes and different cultures. His studies revealed that in Western countries it is easier to persuade women than men, and one of the reasons why that is so is that in the West women are educated to be more passive.

Upon his return to Israel, he was drafted into the IDF, was a research officer, and busied himself, among other things, with a study of the reasons for defection from the IDF, with AWOL's and with the absorption of youth with a criminal past. At the beginning of the sixties, he began his activity in the NRP. Isra'el Har'el was the person who was responsible for his joining the party and for introducing him to Zvulun Hammer. Har'el is today the chairman of the Judea and Samaria settlements council. In the elections for the Seventh Knesset which were held in 1969, Ben Me'ir placed fifteenth. His threats that he would resign the NRP did not help. The leader of the party at that time, Ha'im Shapira, may he rest in peace, argued, among other things, that it was impossible for a father and son to be on one list in the Knesset (his father, Dr Isra'el Ben Me'ir). But still in that same Knesset session, following a string of resignations and deaths (the deaths of Shapira and Ben Me'ir senior, may they rest in peace), Ben Me'ir joined the Knesset in 1971, precisely on the heels of his father's death.

Ben Me'ir has left his mark on everything that the NRP has done in the last decade. But above all else he was and remains the secret advisor and driving force behind Zvulun Hammer. Ben Me'ir was aware of his limitations and recognized the advantages that Hammer had over him, particularly by virtue of Hammer's appearance and Ben Me'ir's negative public image. But Hammer did not abandon Ben Me'ir because he appreciated the latter's intellectual superiority, his style, his rhetorical ability and his knowledge of languages, as well as his particular talent for analyzing political situations with dizzying speed. Crowning Zvulun Hammer as the leader of the NRP became the goal of Ben Me'ir's life, and his hidden hope, which he never admitted, was to derive the maximum from Hammer's leadership, to be the driving force, the strong man who would control everything.

Ben Me'ir was the man who, last year, pushed Zvulun Hammer to make a drastic decision. He urged him to resign from the party and try to set up a new party. A second possibility suggested by Ben Me'ir was to throw up his hands and go home. Only as a third alternative, and not as a particularly attractive one, Ben Me'ir recommended that he remain in the NRP, the present status of which is

hopeless. Several weeks ago he decided that he wanted to return to academic life and renew his work as a lecturer in a psychology faculty (he stopped teaching when he was appointed deputy minister).

The temptation to resign the NRP grew after the local elections. Ben Me'ir headed a young staff that worked apart from the NRP staff and ran dozens of candidates in the various cities. The factors that caused a de facto split within the NRP on the eve of the local elections are connected with a deterioration within the NRP. The factional structure, the total dependence on a degenerate system composed of several dozen people, destroyed the party base. The system's control of the positions of power was the essential factor in the split by Tami activists headed by Aharon Abu-Hatzira, the Tehiya activists, MK's Hanan Porat and Gershon Shafet and the Matzad movement headed by MK's Ha'im Druckman and Yosef Shapira. The NRP was left with high capital buildings and institutions, but no spirit.

To these developments, which were viewed seriously by all factions of the NRP, an unexpected occurrence was added, which was particularly detrimental to Ben Me'ir. Zvulun Hammer's heart attack has, over the last few weeks, neutralized the leader of the youth movement. Hammer's illness struck with particularly bad timing since the NRP leader, Dr Yosef Burg is conducting feverish negotiations with the NRP defectors to bring them back into the fold. The youth faction was left without a shepherd. Not only was Hammer missing, but so, too, was Dani Vermus, the NRP general secretary who resigned along with the head of the cultural branch, Tzvi Koenig. All of the key positions which had been in the hands of the youth were abandoned and left completely unfilled. New forces, which Burg hopes to bring back to the party at the expense of the youth, are to fill this vacuum. It is not out of the question that Ben Me'ir will seek the position of general secretary of the NRP in place of Dani Vermus, a post reserved for the youth, in the hope of healing the wounds and reorganizing the ranks of the activists. But even if he doesn't take the position officially, Ben Me'ir will try in the immediate future to halt the NRP slide, a slide which would likely spell the death knell of his political activity.

9794

CSO: 4423/31

FINANCIAL CRISIS AFFECTS AGED, HANDICAPPED

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] Approximately 2,500 senior citizens who are in homes maintained by the Labor and Welfare Ministry, as well as 5,000 retarded citizens who are staying in institutions, will have to be sent to their homes. This action will have to be taken since the supply of food and fuel in these institutions ran out following the stopping of support payments by the ministry and the work stoppages by ministry workers.

Workers of the ministry have decided in the meantime to intensify their struggle and on 2 Jan were to hold a demonstration in front of the finance ministry.

Deputy Labor Minister Ben-Tzion Rubin said on 1 Jan that the conditions in institutions maintained by his ministry is critical. He pointed out that the finance ministry comptroller said he would not be able to issue the hundreds of checks for all these institutions, even if he did receive a complete list.

As to the negotiations on workers' demands to correct errors in their salaries and ranking, the deputy minister said that his ministry has proposed a way to implement corrections without violating existing agreements, but the finance ministry rejected it.

In view of the situation more institutions are threatened with closing immediately:

Institutions for children and teenagers which serve 12,000 youngsters from broken homes.

Institutions for blind and handicapped citizens, serving 2,500 people.

Halfway homes with 700 juvenile delinquents.

Institutions for vocational training with 30,000 students.

Most daycare centers, affecting 45,000 children of working mothers.

Slowdowns by workers of the Ministry of Labor and Welfare have created great difficulties in welfare services in Jerusalem; the office is flooded with

applications by parents whose children had been in various institutions which were closed due to financial hardship. Some of the children are under the care of foster parents. These families have already announced that they would return the children in the next few days unless they receive the money due them from the Ministry of Labor and Welfare.

Likewise, the hardship on senior citizens in the city has also worsened. Homes for the aged are about to be closed and the lack of welfare funds makes it impossible for the municipality to provide senior citizens with fuel, needed to heat their homes.

8646

CSO: 4423/32

CUTBACKS AND LAYOFFS AT UNIVERSITIES

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] The institutions for higher learning are mandated these days to perform wide ranging layoffs in their administrative staffs, implement cutbacks in salaries of academicians, freeze construction plans and rescind tuition exemptions for the sons and daughters of workers.

The universities agreed to perform wide ranging cutbacks as part of the agreement signed a few weeks ago with the finance ministry. This agreement supplied the universities with large sums of money which prevented their closing. The universities, for their part, committed themselves to an 8 percent cut in their budgets for the next year--a sum totaling 1.5 billion pounds. Following is the cutback plan that was worked out by the Council for Higher Education:

Layoffs or cutbacks. The universities will propose a 5 percent across the board cut in salaries for academicians. If they turn the offer down, 1,200 are to be laid off. If they agree, no one is to be laid off.

The administrative staffs will be asked to forego 15 percent of their transportation budget and 25 percent of other benefits.

Layoffs. These will apply mostly to administrative personnel. The main brunt for the layoffs will be borne by the Hebrew University where 250 workers are to be laid off. At the Weitzman Institute 37 workers have already been laid off, among them some academicians, too. About 70 more workers are to be laid off soon.

Tuition for sons and daughters. There are about 2,000 university students who are sons and daughters of workers there. Right now they are exempt from tuition. If they paid their way, it would save the universities about \$1 million.

Construction, improvements and development. All construction plans will be frozen; all expensive improvement plans are to be canceled. The acquisition of expensive equipment is to be curtailed, as will show projects like expensive restaurants for contributors and lavish entertainment.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Education has started a campaign against the cutbacks, especially against the plan to rescind tuition exemptions.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, is about to return to his ministry following recuperation from a heart attack. The minister received reports while he was home and arrived at an understanding with the prime minister, according to which no discussion on cutbacks for his ministry would take place before he returned.

Hammer has already made it clear that he would not be open to concessions in two areas: free high school tuition and cutbacks in teaching schedules. A Ministry of Education spokesman announced on 1 January that "the rescinding of free education will be an unequivocal revocation of the coalition agreement."

8646

CSO: 4423/32

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENTIFIC DATA BANK PROPOSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] A plan for the establishment of a scientific data bank was presented to Prof Shim'on Yiftah, chairman of the committee for examining the scientific system in Israel. The committee was established recently by Minister of Science and Development Yuval Ne'eman. The plan was presented by Ze'eva Levi, manager of the National Center for Technology and Science (MALMATAM) in the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure.

In a detailed memo she presented to Prof Yiftah, Ms Levi points out that Israel spends about 2.8 percent of its GNP on research and development, via various institutions (mostly public and governmental)--i.e., about \$650 million annually. That sum becomes even higher when various studies are added to it. The main product, almost the only one, of studies is a written report. Most of the reports are usually stashed away by those ordering them, with no trace.

Large industrial countries have long since established central data banks for research and development studies. There are 1,800 such data banks in the West. About 70 percent of them are in the U.S., 20 percent in Great Britain and the remainder in other Western European countries. The first scientific data banks were established in the sixties. Since then they have accumulated a total of about 94 million scientific items in all areas of science and technology. This data is constantly being updated. Scientific banks serve customers like universities, industry, governmental agencies and research institutions, all of whom need the data for the furthering of research and development.

This is not the first time that the establishment of a scientific data bank has been proposed. Ms Levi's recommendations were preceded by reports of two government commissions in 1970 and 1981. Most of the recommendations of these commissions have not yet been implemented.

One commission was the Commission for the Development of Technological and Scientific Systems in Israel, headed by Prof D. Abir, which was established in 1969. The commission was established as a continuation and complement to the Klechky Commission for the study of the organization of institutions for scientific research in Israel. It did not deal with the subject of data for research and development. The Abir Commission's report was presented in 1970 and was adopted by the government, following a discussion, in 1971. Some of its recommendations have not been implemented. The second commission, of 1981, was headed by Prof A. Zeidman.

The Abir Commission concluded that "scientific services in Israel lag behind similar services in developed industrial countries. Information services in Israel do not supply the demands of research, industry and management. The more the latter deal with sophisticated technology, the larger the gap between what is available and what is needed. The commission also stated that "there is a connection between economic and technological development on the one hand and the level of the needed information services". Therefore the commission recommended as far back as in 1970 the establishment of "a national center for scientific information," to be financed by the government.

The National Center for Technology and Science (MALMATAM) was established as an outcome of these recommendations. Today it is under the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (formerly it came under the Office of the Prime Minister). MALMATAM provides information for customers in Israel on articles from magazines, patents, technical reports, books, etc. from Israel and from throughout the world in ten areas of science and engineering.

The area of centralizing research and development reports on projects done in Israel is lacking because there is no requirement to supply MALMATAM with copies of these reports, as is done in other countries that have scientific data banks. Therefore, overseas customers cannot avail themselves of the knowhow being accumulated in Israel, something which may impede wider relations with developed countries in the area of scientific information.

The Zeidman commission stated in 1981 that in order to properly utilize the scientific-technological manpower in Israel, easy access to information sources, both in Israel and abroad, has to be provided, even if it seems costly at first. "Not utilizing the information is tantamount to wasting resources and a misguided process of arriving at decisions. This is particularly true of industries which channel most of their efforts to exports or to replacing imports," said the commission in its report.

The commission recommended the "development of a national network of information, to be integrated with other information networks in the world," stating that this is an "immediate need...an integral part of national economic and technological planning, including the defense aspect." In order to achieve efficiency the commission recommended a concerted effort to encourage cooperation between industry, research institutes, universities and the government in managing the information services. As a second stage the commission recommended efforts in training manpower of high caliber in the area of information. Ze'eva Levi presents data published abroad which proves, according to her, the large savings to be realized from the establishment of a data bank. According to her, the reading of a scientific article saves \$580 and that of a technical article, \$1,280. A data bank prevents duplication of effort and the wasting of expensive resources on development and studies which have already been done elsewhere.

Ms Levi proposes legislation which will mandate every institution or scientist, whose work is partially or totally financed by the state, to present a copy of the research of the report to the national data bank. This will be like the deposit of a document in the national archives. According to the proposal, the data bank will not include judicial or police reports of any kind, material which

is classified as pertaining to national defense, material of a defense nature which is not intended for publication, reports of investigative committees, material which may be applied for patents or any material of a personal nature.

8646

CSO: 4423/32

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH AUSTRALIA

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Dec 83 p 6

[Text] The Australian government is proposing to sign an agreement on agricultural cooperation and the establishment of a joint research fund. Agriculture Minister Pesakh Groffer, who announced this on 27 December, added that the Australian government is willing to contribute the sum of \$40 million as its contribution to the joint fund. He also added that the American Secretary of Agriculture was due to arrive in Israel at the end of January. The latter has expressed special interest in seeing Israeli achievement in agricultural research at close hand.

In a tour of the various departments in Merkaz Vulkani the minister of agriculture complained that agricultural research in Israel is lagging, compared with many other countries, in developing new breeds of fruits and vegetables.

Researchers in the Institute for Agricultural Research showed the minister of agriculture new varieties of citrus fruit which have not yet been approved for commercial development. They also showed him the first tissue cultures from a new variety of Shamuti oranges, which can be watered with water of high salt content, as well as new varieties of grapes, almonds and flowers, none of which have yet been approved for commercial development.

Executives of the Agricultural Research Administration complained about the aging of the agricultural research community and maintained that "the inability to absorb young researchers is causing irreparable damage to Israeli agricultural research."

It was reported that because of budgetary constraints there has been a delay in plans for the development of robots for picking and sorting of citrus fruits, as well as sophisticated electronic machinery intended to replace human labor in the agricultural sector.

8646

CSO: 4423/32

ISRAEL RADIO USING PORTABLE RECORDERS

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Judy Siegel]

[Text] After years of negotiations, the Broadcasting Authority and Israel Radio technicians have finally reached an agreement whereby reporters tape events outside the studio on portable cassette recorders instead of having to be accompanied everywhere by technicians lugging heavy equipment.

The agreement was announced at the authority's board of directors meeting yesterday.

For years, Israel Radio has been the target of public criticism and wonderment by foreign observers for maintaining this wasteful practice long after lightweight equipment was available. It has been maintained so far only because of the technicians' union power.

It was not disclosed whether the technicians would receive any financial or other compensation for relinquishing work outside the studios.

For many years, radio reporters have complained that the technicians sometimes arrived late at press conferences or interviews or otherwise tied them down.

Meanwhile, the board of directors yesterday approved the proposal of TV director Tuviya Sa'ar to renew the broadcast of Ma She'Ba (Anything Goes) on Sunday evenings at 8. Ma She'Ba, which was broadcast live with hosts Dan Hamitzer and Batya Barak, was a family magazine show.

According to a proposal by authority chairman Reuven Yaron, the show--whose host will be the controversial Yaron London--will be taped for its first four weeks. After that, the board of directors will determine whether the show may be screened live. Some members of the board have in the past criticized London for being "left wing" and too "brutal" an interviewer.

The two Labour Party representatives on the board, Nissim Almog and Yisrael Peleg, said it was not the business of the board to appoint interviewers or hosts of TV shows.

Board member Aharon Papo of La'am criticized Friday night's The Good Hour, claiming that host, Meir Shalev, had "politicized" the programme. Yaron and Ahuva Meron of the Likud defended the show "in general," but agreed it was "too publicized." Director-general Yosef Lapid said The Good Hour was meant to be a family entertainment show and must not become political satire.

CSO: 4400/148

KARMON 3 DRILLING SITE FOUND PROMISING

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Dec 83 p 16

[Article by 'Ezra Yanuv: "Expectation Over Results of Tests at the Karmon 3 Drilling Site"]

[Text] Drill managers are displaying caution in their evaluation of the quantities of oil discovered last week. They are waiting for the results. Thus far \$1.5 million has been invested.

An electric photo machine was brought to the Karmon 3 drill site yesterday to carry out the first series of tests on the drill bore, in an attempt to establish the thickness of the layer in which signs of oil were discovered.

Different tests will be conducted at the site today after signs of oil were discovered last Friday at a depth of 2,118 meters. At the end of the test, the drill owners will have to decide whether to deepen the drilling to the intended layer at a depth of 2,350 meters or to stop at the layer in which signs of oil have already been discovered.

Ya'aqov (Jack) Sherman, the drill geologist, wants to be cautious in his determination since it is still too early to establish the facts and make definitive statements. The same is the case with the "Lapidot" Corp workers, who want to await the results of their tests in the next few days.

Nevertheless workers at the drill site have been excited by the very fact that the drill encountered a 3-meter soft layer, which points to the presence of the "shiny layer"--the layer in which signs of oil were discovered in previous drillings at the "kokhav" and "Heletz" fields adjacent to the Karmon site.

Members of the Hodaya moshav, close to the drill site, made their customary trip to the fence at the site to learn the significance of the mud basin next to the drilling machine. Only oil experts would be able to say if there is a faint odor of gases and oil being emitted from the drill site. Curious onlookers arriving there frequently question the general manager of the "King David Oil and Gas Corporation," Uri Ophri, who is at the drill site.

Meanwhile only the electric photo machine, which continues its test of the findings in the drill hole, continues its work in silence. When the drill bits, the first of them being the Johnston tool, are again inserted into the

hole, enabling a test of pressures and the transfer of pressures and fluids from the well (from the hole) to the drill surface on the ground, tense and hectic activity will begin which will determine the fate of the drilling for better or for worse. Thus far the Israeli corporations and foreign investors have sunk more than \$1.5 million into the Karmon 3 drilling.

9794

CSO: 4423/31

BRIEFS

GALILEE SETTLEMENTS IN TROUBLE--UPPER NAZARETH.--Thirty-one local authorities in the north have almost stopped functioning due to severe financial difficulties, the chairman of the Galilee settlements, Menahem Ariav, said on Friday. Ariav, who is also mayor of Upper Nazareth, said that many local councils have not yet paid December salaries, commercial banks have attached grants given by the government because of unpaid debts, and contractors have halted development projects. Ariav expects the economic situation to worsen next month. The northern settlements need 15 billion. "Otherwise, most of them will collapse within six weeks," Ariav said. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jan 84 p 3]

TAMI'S ECONOMIC PLAN--Aharon Ozen, the minister of labor and welfare, is today presenting the minister of the treasury with TAMI's economic plan in which, among other things, it will be suggested that stock market capital gains be taxed. The economic plan was firmed up at a session of TAMI's secretariat which took place yesterday in Jerusalem. The plan contains 15 separate paragraphs. An additional suggestion included in the TAMI document deals with the need to force workers making 150,000 shekels or more per month to contribute one month's salary to the treasury, in one payment or in four. A reliable source reported yesterday that if the treasury minister rejects the TAMI proposal, TAMI will not hesitate to quit the government. A TAMI leader, Aharon Abu-Hatzira, told MA'ARIV last night that in contrast to the suggested cuts "which the treasury is carrying out blindly," the TAMI program can correct the distortion. "TAMI," Abu-Hatzira said, "cannot allow only the working public to be affected while the treasury refuses to go after the well-to-do." MK Aharon Abu-Hatzira will return to Knesset activity next Tuesday at the end of a 3-month prison term imposed by the high court, which found him guilty of theft through the agency of a corporate director. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Dec 83 p 1] 9794

LAYOFFS AT AGRESCO--Agresco, the agricultural exporting firm, will shortly have to lay off 100-150 of its workers in Israel and abroad. This follows a decision by the Vegetable Council to transfer to it all matters pertaining to exports of vegetables. The Vegetable Council thus hopes to improve and streamline exports while increasing compensation to growers. Therefore, Agresco will only deal with loading, ship leasing and sales abroad, while the Vegetable Council will set marketing policies. The council will also be responsible for contracts with growers, setting quotas for exports and standards for the quality of produce--all of which were up to now the responsibility of the vegetable division in Agresco. Agresco now employs about 450 workers in Israel and abroad. It should be pointed out that the vegetable division in Agresco accounts for 41 percent of its budget; the fruit division accounts for 15 percent and the general division--9 percent. The Vegetable Council will need another 15 workers for handling exports. The decision of the Vegetable Council was adopted after it became clear that Agresco's commission from growers is between 25 and 30 percent. Similar agreements have been in effect with the Fruit Council for years with Agresco serving only in a marketing capacity while all other activity is done by the Council. [Text] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jan 84 p 17]

8646

CSO: 4423/32

LEBANON

OUTLINE OF MAJOR FEATURES OF 1984 BUDGET

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic No 54, Nov 83 pp 34-35

/Article: "Principal Characteristics of the Lebanese Budget"/

/Text/ The cabinet referred the 1984 general budget law project for the state to the chamber of deputies, and the budget amounted in total to 10.5 billion Lebanese lira not including the budgets for the office of grain and sugar beets and the office of the national lottery, as well as registered funds for wire and wireless communications which raise the budget to 12.1 billion compared to 1983's total budget of 10.1 billion. This reflects an increase of 20 percent based on 1983 current prices and 3 /30 probably intended/ percent based on 1982 fixed prices. The general price index increased about 17 percent.

In reality the new budget reflects the political, security, and economic situation in the country and the current priorities of the government, especially as they relate to the relatively large resources for matters of defense and internal security (about 25.7 percent of the total budget). This is in spite of the difficult conditions through which the Lebanese economy is passing and the withdrawal of investment funds in both the public and the private sectors.

Following is a summary of expenses and income in the state's general budget not including special budgets for 1982-1984:

Schedule No 1
Summary of Expenses and Income in the General Budget
(Millions of Liras)

	1982	1983	1984
Expenses	6,300	8,610	10,500
Income	2,545	5,845	7,037
Deficit	3,755	2,765	3,463

It is noted that the annual deficit is in the range of 3.5 billion lira, even though the cumulative deficit has risen, as we will see, subsequent to the stability of overall budget indicators.

B. Analysis of Public Spending

Following is a comparative analysis of the aspects of public spending as they are suggested in the budget plans for fiscal year 1984 compared to the aspects of spending for fiscal year 1983.

Schedule No 2
Aspects of Fixed Costs According to Relative and Absolute Value

	1983 Millions of Lira	Percentage	1984 Millions of Lira	Percentage
		Millions of Lira		Millions of Lira
1. National defense	1,465	17.0 percent	1,944	18.4 percent
2. Public Works and Transportation	1,408	16.3 percent	1,823	17.2 percent
3. National Education	1,210	14.9 percent	1,524	14.4 percent
4. Debts due to be paid	1,280	14.7 percent	1,506	14.2 percent
5. Interior and Internal Security	619	7.6 percent	767	7.3 percent
6. Financial and Electrical Resources	440	5.4 percent	589	5.5 percent
7. Public Health	235	2.9 percent	314	2.9 percent
8. Economy and Commerce	155	1.9 percent	184	1.7 percent
9. Labor and Affairs	188	2.3 percent	167	1.6 percent
10. Agriculture	97	1.1 percent	127	1.3 percent
11. Housing	71	1.0 percent	54	0.5 percent
12. Tourism	56	0.8 percent	41	0.4 percent
13. Presidency of the Republic and Cabinet and Chamber of Deputies	186	2.3 percent	238	2.3 percent
14. Budgetary Reserves	916	11.3 percent	814	7.7 percent
14. Other Expenses	377	4.3 percent	479	4.5 percent
<hr/>				
	8,610m.1.	100 percent	10,575m.1	100 percent

Schedule No 2 shows that a fixed level of about 26 percent of the general budget was designated for national defense and internal security at a time when the share of transportation and public works projects has increased from 16.3 percent to 17.3 percent of the total budget. However, school building projects and projects related to national education have maintained their share of 14.4 percent of the new budget as compared to 14.9 percent during the last fiscal year. Also the increase in the percentage of debts scheduled to be retired has increased to about 14.4 percent of the entire budget as a result of the state's being compelled to borrow from commercial banks by means of treasury bonds.

As for the production sectors which do not have much of a share, such as agriculture which was allotted only 1.2 percent and housing and cooperatives

which were allotted only 0.5 percent, and also tourism which has no more than 0.4 percent, these low shares do not mean that the state is unaware of the importance of developing these relations, rather they reflect the unstable security situation which has clearly been detrimental to the activities of these sectors, and reflect, in addition, the paralysis which has afflicted tourist facilities and the recession which has struck agriculture in the South as a result of the Israeli presence, and all that has brought with it, including, imported Israeli agricultural products and also the shutting off of export markets in neighboring Arab countries.

C. Analysis of Projected Income

Income for fiscal year 1984 is estimated to be 7 billion Lebanese Lira compared to estimated income totalling 5.1 billion lira for fiscal year 1983 of which 32.2 percent is direct taxes and tariffs, and 45.8 percent is indirect taxes and tariffs.

The expected increase in the participation of customs taxes on imports reflects the optimism of the ruling authorities concerning the return of their control over maritime ports and airports in Lebanon while also expecting an increase in level of consumption and productive economic activity as a result of the partial beginning of public works and development projects. The coming months will reveal whether these expectations are realistic, in regards to renewed true customs income, which will return to the treasury in the first month of 1984.

Schedule No 3 Sources of Income (Millions of Liras)

	1983	Percent	1984	Percent
1. Direct Taxes and Tariffs	1,780	35	2,280	32.2
2. Indirect Taxes and Tariffs				
Tariffs	2,000	39.3	3,288	45.8
3. Revenue of State				
Property	40	0.9	42	1.7
4. Miscellaneous Income	1,264	24.8	1,432	20.3
5. Total Expected Returns	5,084	100.0	7,032	100.0
6. Loans to Meet				
Anticipated Deficit	3,526		3,543	
	8,610		10,575	

D. Public Debt

Of the indicators which call for attention and concern at the same time is the rapid increase in the size of internal debt. It is known that the

total of the deficit, which is made up of loans advanced from the Bank of Lebanon and from treasury bonds in possession of the commercial banks, reached 14.1 billion Lebanese lira by the end of 1982, of which 12.3 billion were treasury bonds and 1.8 billion in debts of the Bank of Lebanon. However, by the end of 1983 the public debt is expected to be about 20 billion Lebanese lira of which 5 billion in the form of loans from the central bank and 14 billion are special bonds. It is known that about 70 percent of these bonds will mature within three months, also the distribution of treasury bonds among variable maturity dates at the end of 1982 is noted:

Types of Bonds	December 1982
Three-month maturity	8,388
Six-month maturity	2,955
Two-year maturity	654
Three-year maturity	-
Five-year maturity	141
	<hr/>
	12,278

Information is not currently available about the manner of distribution of bonds in the end of this year (the last quarter), it is probable that 3-month treasury bonds are in greater circulation.

These are the principal characteristics of the 1984 general budget for the state, and as has been clarified, the income, expenditure and debt indicators show that Lebanon has not yet begun a return to sound economic health.

12390

CSO: 4404/222

SAUDI ARABIA

REGULATIONS FOR ARRESTS, IMPRISONMENT SPECIFIED

Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 16 Nov 83 p 6

[Article by Muhammad al-Qashma': "The Issuance of the Implementing Regulations of the Imprisonment and Detention Law"]

[Text] No person shall be arrested or detained unless there is evidence indicating that he has committed a crime.

It shall not be permitted to issue a warrant for the preventive custody of a person unless the crime he is charged with committing is a major crime.

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior, has approved the implementing regulations of the Imprisonment and Detention Law. Prince Nayif's decree included the issuance of the regulations containing the rules for stopping, arresting, and detaining persons and holding them in preventive custody. These regulations consist of 22 articles. The articles of these regulations state, among other things, that no person shall be arrested or detained--if he has been reported [as having committed a crime] or an accusation has been made against him--unless there is evidence indicating that he has committed a crime requiring that he be arrested. The articles also state that the investigation [concerning an arrested person] must be completed within 3 days after the detained person has been arrested.

The following is the full text of these regulations:

The Rules for Stopping and Arresting Persons, Temporarily Detaining Them, and Holding Them in Preventive Custody.

Article 1. Patrolmen and other policemen representing the public authorities shall have the right to stop anyone who is in circumstances which cause [the police] to suspect his [involvement in a crime].

Article 2. If there are indications which cause [the police] to suspect that a person has committed a crime, he shall be apprehended and immediately handed over to the proper authorities, and a report shall be prepared which records the information concerning the identity of the officer who apprehended him and the identity of the person arrested, as well as the date and time of his arrest and the reasons leading to his arrest.

Article 3. The proper authorities shall conduct their investigation immediately after the arrival of the arrested person. In every case, the arrested person shall be questioned and his defense shall be heard, and this shall be recorded in an official report within no more than 24 hours after his arrest.

Article 4. If the grounds for suspecting the arrested person [of having committed a crime] are disproved, he shall be immediately released by order of the investigating officer or the duty officer.

Article 5. If the suspicions concerning the arrested person are corroborated, the authority investigating him shall order, in writing, that he be detained in order that the investigation be completed, and the investigation must be completed within 3 days after his arrest.

Article 6. If a person has been reported [as having committed a crime] or an accusation has been made against him, he may not be arrested or detained until there is evidence indicating that he has committed a crime requiring that he be arrested, and until he has been questioned and his defense heard and recorded in an official report.

Article 7. In every case, the investigation [concerning an arrested person] must be completed within 3 days after the detained person has been arrested.

Article 8. If, after the period of time referred to in the article above, there is no preponderant evidence indicating that the detained person has committed a definite crime, the following shall be done:

A. The arrested person shall be released by order of the chief of the police precinct station where the investigation was conducted.

B. After his release, the documents [concerning the case] shall be submitted to the district governor [amir] or to any amir subordinate to the district governor who is authorized by the district governor to either suspend the prosecution [of the arrested person] or to proceed in accordance with what he considers to be proper.

Article 9. If, after the period of time referred to in the article above, there is preponderant evidence indicating that the detained person has committed a definite crime, the following shall be done?

A. If the crime involved is not a major crime, then either:

a. The arrested person shall be transferred directly from the investigative authority to the judicial authority empowered to try him in order that a decision be reached concerning the accusation he has been charged with.

b. Or the arrested person shall be released on personal recognizance or on bail--or both at the same time--provided that he has a permanent and known place of residence in Saudi Arabia. This is in order that he report to the authorities if it becomes necessary to conduct further investigations after the [above-mentioned] 3-day period expires.

B. If the crime involved is a major crime, then:

a. The arrested person shall be charged with the crime, a warrant shall be issued to hold him in preventive custody, and he shall be transferred to a public prison.

b. The handling of the case shall be referred to the proper authorities immediately after the completion of the investigation.

Article 10. The following crimes constitute major crimes: Premeditated murder; quasi-premeditated murder; causing physical incapacitation; crimes calling for punishment according to Islamic law; attacking someone's place of residence; theft; rape; violating a [woman's] honor; sodomy; manufacturing, smuggling, or dealing in intoxicating beverages, or drinking such beverages or providing them to other persons; smuggling narcotics or what is considered in the category of narcotics, or manufacturing, growing, possessing, or dealing in narcotics or providing them to other persons or using them without authorization; smuggling weapons, ammunition, or explosives, or manufacturing or dealing in them or using them or possessing them without authorization; [causing] disturbances during which firearms or silent weapons are used; [causing] mass disturbances or disturbances which occur between tribes; arson committed against residences or places of business, or the burning of forest areas; premeditated killing of another person's animals; counterfeiting coins or paper money; forgery; bribery; impersonating employees of the government's intelligence service or bureau of investigation or persons considered in this category; resisting [police] officers of the public authorities; embezzling government property; practicing usury; and all crimes constituting actions concerning which royal decrees or directives have stipulated that people abstain from these actions rather than engage in them.

Article 11. It shall not be permitted to issue a warrant for the preventive custody of a person unless the crime he is charged with committing is a major crime and there are compelling reasons for taking him into preventive custody. The following shall constitute such compelling reasons:

A. If he has been caught in the act of committing the crime. A perpetrator is considered to have been caught in the act of committing a crime if he was seen by eyewitnesses immediately after he committed the crime or immediately after the screaming of the victim of the crime or members of the public and their pursuit of him immediately after the commission of the crime, or he was caught possessing weapons, tools, or implements which were used in committing the crime or things which were obtained as a result of committing the crime, or if there were material consequences indicating that he was the perpetrator of the crime or an accomplice in the commission of the crime.

B. If he legally confesses, of his own free will, that he has committed the crime.

C. If there is well-founded information or reasonably good proof which makes it likely that he will be convicted of having committed a definite crime.

D. If allowing him to remain free would constitute a danger to his life or the lives of others, would lead to endangering public security, or would cause commotion or turmoil among the public.

E. If he has no permanent and known place of residence in Saudi Arabia, or if it is feared that he will flee, or if it is feared that he will [attempt to] affect the course of the investigation [concerning the crime committed].

Article 12. A warrant issued by an investigative authority for the preventive custody of a person accused of committing a major crime shall be in effect for no longer than 21 days after his arrest.

Article 13.

A. If it is not possible to complete the investigation before the end of the period specified in the above-mentioned article, the investigative authority shall submit--at least 3 days prior to the end of this period--a summary which deals with the case, the information and proof with which the arrested person has been confronted and which led to his being taken into preventive custody, the shortcomings which have arisen in the investigation, the reasons why the investigation could not be completed, the period of time which the investigative authority considers necessary for the completion of the investigation, and a request for permission for it to continue to hold the arrested person in custody during this period of time--provided that this period of time not exceed 30 days after the date of expiration of the period of validity of the order for the detention of the arrested person which has been specified in the above-mentioned article.

B. The report referred to in the paragraph above shall be submitted to the district governor or to any amir subordinate to the district governor who is authorized by the district governor [to handle the matter].

C. The investigative authority shall inform the house of detention or prison, where the arrested person is being held, of the date and number of the report sent to the district governor's office.

D. The director of the house of detention or prison where the arrested person is being held shall demand that the investigative authority furnish evidence of the fact that it has submitted its report to the district governor's office and requested permission from it to continue to detain the arrested person, and this shall be done immediately upon expiration of the period of validity of the period of detention ordered by the investigative authority in accordance with Article 12.

E. The imprisonment of the person held in preventive custody shall continue, and the investigative authority shall continue with the completion of its investigation, until instructions arrive from the district governor's office and action shall be taken in accordance with these instructions. The investigative authority shall inform the house of detention or prison, where the arrested person is being held in preventive custody, of the decision by the district governor's office to either continue keeping the arrested person in prison or to release him.

F. The district governor's office shall be entitled to permit the continued imprisonment of the person being held in preventive custody for as long as it deems necessary for the completion of the investigation--provided that this period of time not exceed 30 days after the date of expiration of the period of validity of the preventive custody warrant issued by the investigative authority which is specified in Article 12.

Article 14. In every case, the investigative authority shall refer the handling of the case involved to the district governor's office before 30 days have elapsed following the date of expiration of the period of validity of the arrest warrant issued by the investigative authority. The district governor's office shall take the decision which it deems appropriate based on the provisions of the regulations concerning the authorized powers of the district governors.

Article 15. Bearing in mind what is stipulated by the laws [governing the actions] of the Border and Customs Police, the Grievance Board, the Censorship and Investigation Authority, the Society for the Prevention of Vice and the Promotion of Virtue, and other laws and implementing regulations--with the exception of crimes concerning which royal decrees and directives stipulate that persons accused of committing such crimes not be released until permission has been received from higher government authorities or after the matter has been referred to the [appropriate] ministry--each of the following persons, within his sphere of authority, shall be entitled to order that an accused person be either taken into preventive custody or released: 1) district governors and their deputies; 2) the director of [the Office of] Public Security and his assistants; 3) police chiefs; 4) assistance police chiefs, directors of criminal arrests, and chiefs of police precinct stations, when the matter concerns cases still under review by any of the aforementioned; 5) directors of the Public Anti-Narcotics Office and directors of their office's branches, when the matter concerns crimes involving narcotics or what is considered in that category; 6) the director of the Public Traffic Office and directors of traffic offices, when the matter concerns traffic accidents; and 7) the director general of the Passport Office and directors of passport offices, when the matter concerns cases involving passports and residence.

Article 16. With the exception of what is stipulated by royal decrees and directives concerning the necessity of obtaining permission before doing so, the authority to which the handling of a given case is referred shall order the release of a person held in preventive custody in return for someone guaranteeing that he will report to the authorities, or order his release on bail--or both at the same time--in the following cases:

1. If the investigation does not produce preponderant evidence that a crime has occurred.
2. If the crime which the accused is being charged with is not a major crime.
3. If the investigation does not produce evidence rendering it likely that the arrested person will be convicted or likely that a solid accusation can be made against him.

4. In cases other than crimes involving premeditated murder, quasi-premeditated murder, causing physical incapacitation, appropriating land, and theft, if the arrested person has already paid [to the aggrieved party] all of the entitlements which the aggrieved party is entitled to receive, has already deposited these entitlements in the trust of those entitled to receive them, or has already provided a guarantee that these entitlements will be paid.

5. If the crime that the arrested person has been charged with committing is one which can be legally punishable by means of only a fine and the arrested person is known and has a known place of residence in Saudi Arabia, and if he has paid the fine set by law or half of the larger figure constituting the maximum legal fine--if there is a maximum and a minimum legal fine--or has provided a full guarantee that the fine will be paid.

6. If there is both a maximum and a minimum term of imprisonment set by law as a punishment for the crime which the arrested person has been charged with committing and he has already served more than half of the maximum term of imprisonment or more than 1 year of imprisonment--whichever is the lesser of the two periods of time--and he has no record of previous convictions and the crime he has been charged with committing does not involve circumstances calling for a more severe penalty.

7. If the punishment for the crime which the arrested person has been charged with committing is left up to the discretion of the judge and the arrested person has already served a period of preventive detention which is longer than the period of imprisonment he is expected to be sentenced to.

8. If the arrested person is a juvenile who is less than 10 years of age.

9. If the arrested person is a juvenile who is between 10 and 15 years of age and there is no compelling necessity to hold him in detention or the judge has not permitted him to be held in detention.

Article 17. A person being held in preventive custody shall be released in the following cases?

1. If a judicial ruling or decision is issued which acknowledges his innocence, or acknowledges that there is doubt concerning his guilt, or acknowledges that he was not responsible [for the commission of the crime], or if the charges are dropped.

2. If he has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment but has already been in preventive detention for a period of time either equal to or in excess of his term of imprisonment.

Article 18. An arrested person shall be released in the cases referred to in the article above even if the ruling or decision issued is one which can be appealed in a court of cassation, or an appellate court, or a court of grievances, or is a ruling or decision which must be ratified by the proper authority. Except in these cases, a district governor or any amir subordinate to the district governor who is authorized by him shall be permitted to order the continued detention of the arrested person until the ruling or decision becomes a

final ruling or decision or until the matter is referred to the ministry [concerned] in order that it proceed in accordance with what it considers to be proper.

Article 19. Without this in any way prejudicing the right of an arrested person to lodge a grievance, at any time he so wishes, with the royal authorities, or the ministry [concerned], or the district governor's office, a person being held in preventive custody shall be permitted to formally object to a request made by the police for permission from the governor's office to continue to hold him in preventive detention after the expiration of the period of validity of the arrest warrant issued by the investigative authority which is specified in Article 12.

Article 20. The district governor's office or any amir authorized [by the district governor] is entitled, when considering a request by an investigative authority for permission to continue the preventive detention of an arrested person, to form a committee--if this is considered necessary--composed of a specialist in Islamic law or a legal adviser and a representative of the police, to look into the objection made by the person being held in preventive custody, listen to his statements, and make its recommendations.

Article 21. If the period of 30 days referred to in Paragraph F of Article 13 has expired and a person being held in preventive detention makes a formal objection to the continuation of his detention, the district governor's office shall form a committee, in accordance with the above-mentioned article, to look into his objection and make its recommendations--unless the district governor's office has decided to refer the matter to court or to refer the handling of the matter to the ministry [concerned].

Article 22. Every district governor's office shall form a committee composed of a judicial or legal adviser and a representative of the police which shall have the authority to look into grievances submitted by persons being held in preventive detention concerning whom orders have been issued for their release or persons who have not been released after their terms of imprisonment have expired. The committee shall look into such grievances within no more than 7 days after they have been submitted, shall hear the statements made by the person in preventive detention or the prisoner, and the committee's recommendations shall be submitted to the district governor's office within 3 days after [the grievances have been heard].

9468

CSO: 4404/161

INCREASE IN NON-OIL GDP NOTED

Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 16 Nov 83 p 19

[Article: "According to a SAMA Report, the Non-Oil GDP in Saudi Arabia Has Increased Greatly"]

[Text] Credit institutions extended a total of 151.5 billion riyals of loans to Saudi citizens. The process of Saudiization has been completed in all of the ten foreign banks.

The Gulf economic agreement will aid the commercial growth of the GCC nations.

During fiscal year 1402-03 A.H. there was a real increase of 7.5 percent in Saudi Arabia's non-oil GDP. This increase is considered to be an important achievement when compared with the modest increases and recession which prevailed throughout the world during the third 5-year plan period, when this figure was only 6.2 percent. The share of the private sector in the GDP increased by an estimated 8.1 percent, whereas the increase in the share of the public sector increased by about 6.3 percent.

The annual statistical report issued by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency [SAMA] concerned itself with the development of the Saudi economy and the most important indicators of this economy during fiscal year 1402-03 A.H. The report said that the agricultural and industrial sectors achieved rapid growth because of the numerous incentives which have been provided by the government. There was a large increase in the production of wheat, in particular, and this will enable Saudi Arabia to be self-sufficient in wheat in the near future. There were also noticeable increases in the production of cement, fertilizer, and electric power. By the end of 1982 the Ministry of Industry and Electricity had granted a total of 2,424 industrial licenses with authorized capital totalling 100.7 billion riyals. During the first half of 1403 A.H. the ministry also approved the granting of 180 more industrial licenses, the investment value of which totalled 4.4 billion riyals.

The report also said that another decrease in the rate of inflation occurred during the above-mentioned year. Because of the recession, the value of the non-oil GDP increased 3.8 percent, as compared with 5.5 percent during the

previous year and 6.9 percent during fiscal year 1401 A.H. Also, there was improvement with regard to the record-high cost of living for middle-income Saudi families in some of Saudi Arabia's cities.

The report went on to say that the process of the Saudiization of the foreign banks, which began in 1395 A.H. (1975), has been completed. Right now there is a total of 10 such banks operating in Saudi Arabia. They are expanding the base of their capital and improving and expanding their services by opening up new branch banks. During fiscal year 1402-03 A.H. a total of 84 branch banks were opened. Right now Saudi Arabia has a total of 435 commercial branch banks, and this is 5 times as many branch banks as existed in Saudi Arabia at the end of fiscal year 1395-96 A.H., which was the year during which the process of Saudiization began. During this period of time the capital and reserves of these banks increased more than 10-fold--from 807 million riyals to 8.5 billion riyals. Their total assets also increased 6 fold--from 21.7 billion riyals to 138.1 billion riyals.

The report also talked about the five specialized credit institutions, which are the Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank, the Saudi Industrial Development Fund, the Real Estate Development Fund, the Investment Fund in Riyadh, and the Saudi Credit Bank. The report said that these institutions had continued their job of responding to the financial requirements of the sectors in the economy which they were dealing with. According to the report, these credit institutions, from the time of their establishment till the end of the month of Jumada II 1403 A.H., had granted a total of about 151.5 billion riyals worth of loans and their net loans totaled 130.6 billion riyals.

As for Saudi Arabia's foreign trade, the report had the following to say: Saudi Arabia's imports continued to increase noticeably--the increase totalling 16.8 percent. Imports in 1981 totalled 119.3 billion riyals, and they went up to 139.3 billion riyals in 1982. They totalled 34.8 billion riyals during the first quarter of 1983, and this represented an increase of 3.9 percent over what imports were during this same period of time in the previous year. During 1402-03 A.H. the value of imports financed by commercial banks went up to 71.2 billion riyals, as compared with 58.6 billion riyals during the previous year, and this represented an increase of 21.5 percent.

As for Saudi Arabia's oil production, the report says that it decreased from 9.8 million barrels per day in 1981 to 6.5 million barrels per day in 1982. During the first half [of 1982] production was 7.2 million barrels per day, and during the second half of that year it went down to 5.8 million barrels per day. Oil production further decreased to 4.3 million barrels per day during the first half of 1983. This decrease has been due to the fact that Saudi Arabia has effected modifications in its oil production because of its decisive role in the world's oil production and because of its desire to maintain the current level of crude oil prices in spite of the continuing low worldwide demand for oil.

Because of the above, Saudi Arabia's exports of crude and refined petroleum have decreased 35.3 percent. They totalled 3.486 billion barrels in 1981, but went down to 2.255 billion barrels in 1982. [During that year], they

totalled 1.27 billion barrels during the first half of the year and 985 million barrels during the second half of the year. Exports then went down to 658.5 million barrels during the first half of 1983. This represented a decrease of 48.1 percent when compared with exports during the first half of 1982. In this regard, the report pointed out that, in spite of the noticeable decrease in Saudi Arabia's production and export of petroleum, government expenditures in the public budget of the current year of 1403-04 A.H. have been estimated at 260 billion riyals as compared with 243.8 billion riyals during the previous year. This represents an increase of 6.7 percent. The nation's imports were estimated at about 225 billion riyals [this year], as compared with 246.2 billion riyals [last year]--and this represents a decrease of 8.6 percent. The anticipated [budget] deficit is estimated as being 35 billion riyals, [and this will be compensated for by funds from] the nation's public reserves. More than half of the budgetary expenditures--150 billion riyals--has been allocated for projects. This figure includes about 54 billion riyals for projects whose implementation will begin during the current year. The remaining amount, which totals 110 billion riyals, was allocated for recurring expenses. Also, the government is continuing to support the sectors of education, health, social services, and municipal services, and it is continuing to raise the standard of living of Saudi citizens.

The report also dealt with some of the other economic developments which have represented important achievements in the progress of Saudi Arabia's economy. The most important of these have been the projects of the Royal Commission for al-Jubayl and Yanbu'. The report said that the Royal Commission, during 1982, executed contracts for projects valued at 4,116,400,000 riyals. Of this total, 2.186 billion riyals were for projects in al-Jubayl and 930.4 million riyals were for projects in Yanbu'. The Saudi companies' share of the total for these contracts amounted to 3,724,300,000 riyals, or 46 percent of the total for the contracts awarded in 1982. The total [for these contracts] was 8,249,400,000 riyals for al-Jubayl and 4,902,200,000 riyals for Yanbu'. The Saudi companies' share of the total for these contracts was 4,863,700,000 riyals, or 37 percent. Thus the value of contracts being executed went up to 36,910,700,000 riyals. Of this total, 22,544,100,000 riyals were for al-Jubayl and 14,366,600,000 riyals were for Yanbu'. The total for contracts executed and being implemented was 45,086,300,000. Of this amount, 27,281,000,000 riyals were for al-Jubayl and 17,705,300,000 riyals were for Yanbu'. The Saudi companies' share of the total for these contracts was 18,882,800,000 riyals were for Yanbu'. The Saudi companies' share of the total for these contracts was 18,882,800,000 riyals, or 42 percent.

The report also dealt in detail with some of the projects of the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC). SABIC began with four projects or enterprises. Three of them began production in 1983, and they are the following: the Saudi Iron and Steel Corporation (hadid), the Saudi Methanol Corporation (al-Razi), and the Saudi Fertilizer Corporation (Samad). The production of the latter went on to say that SABIC had decided to invest 38.2 billion riyals in its basic projects and that 12.8 billion riyals of this amount had already been spent by the end of the first quarter of 1983. In May of 1983 SABIC ratified a phased agreement with two foreign firms for the purpose of setting up a joint venture for the production of some chemical materials to be utilized as an alternative

to lead and in the production of synthetic rubber. February of 1983 was the month of the signing of the first agreement with Saudi firms to set up another joint venture for the production of industrial gases. The cost of this project is estimated at about 500 million riyals.

The report also dealt at length with the activities of the Grain Silos and Flour Mills Organizations because of the great achievements which this sector has accomplished. At the present time, the storage capacity of the existing grain silos enterprises totals 535,000 tons. In addition to this, two more projects are being implemented in Riyadh and al-Qasim, and their capacity totals 300,000 tons. Total storage capacity is scheduled to go up to about 920,000 tons after still other projects are implemented in Ha'il, al-Jawf, and Tabuk. After expansions had been undertaken, the total production capacity of Saudi Arabia's flour mills amounted to 3,180 tons [every 8 hours]. Production of the fodder factories is 700 tons every 8 hours, and this figure will increase to 940 tons every 8 hours after expansion of the plant in Riyadh.

The report also devoted a special section to the matter of the first stage of the GCC agreement entering the stage of implementation beginning on 1 March 1983. It said that the paragraphs of the agreement which have gone into effect include the sections of the agreement which deal with commercial trade, the exercise of business activities, transportation, and communications. The agreement stipulates that all products originating in the member nations whose added value is not less than 40 percent of their final value shall be exempt from customs fees and similar taxes in the member nations. Starting 1 March 1983 the provision which requires that citizens in the member nations own at least 51 percent of foreign establishments will be in effect. Furthermore, member nations will be required to facilitate, in every way, the passage of the products of any member nation to any other member nation across its territory (transit), and these products will be exempt from all fees and taxes. In addition to this, natural and legal persons will have the right to conduct business activities in any GCC member nation--without being subjected to any discrimination--in the areas of agriculture, industry, animal production, fish production, and contracting. Also, persons from the GCC member nations will have the right to register to practice the professions of medicine, law, accounting, engineering--and this includes engineering offices--as well as administrative, business, technical, agricultural, fish production, and industrial consulting in any of the GCC member nations. Every GCC member nation will be required to treat means of transport of passengers and goods, belonging to citizens of [other] member nations and which are passing through its territory or which are destined for any of the member nations, as it would treat such means of transport which are owned by its own citizens. Furthermore, ships and vessels owned by GCC member nations will be permitted to freely utilize the various port facilities in [every other] member nation and will be granted the same treatment and preference [as the ships and vessels of the nation where the port facilities are located].

9468

CSO: 4404/161

'FRACTIONOUS TRIBES' CONTINUE FIGHTING AGAINST INVADERS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 6 Jan 84 p 19

[Article by Tim Cooper]

[Text]

IN the small village of Estana, just 72 km (about 45 miles) north of the Afghan capital, Kabul, the man the Russians most fear sits down to a tea in his honour.

The room is hushed as Ahmed Shah Massoud, flanked by heavily armed bodyguards, speaks to each of his hosts in turn in a carefully timed ritual. At 30 years of age, Massoud is gaining a reputation as one of the few men who could unite Afghanistan's fractious tribes against the Soviet invaders.

Using the safe haven of the Panjashir Valley as a base, Massoud is trying to secure agreements of mutual assistance from other rebel groups whose men he trains in the north and centre of the country. That afternoon in Estana, which nestles high in the Hindu-Kush mountains, he was chipping away at this herculean task.

Massoud first started fighting six years ago — two years before the Russian invasion. If he succeeds in forging even a semblance of unity among the unruly tribes of Afghanistan, the Russians will have a real fight on their hands.

Massoud has already scored a notable success by achieving what appears to be the first tangible and lasting result of the four-year conflict — the Panjshir ceasefire.

The Afghan government and Soviet forces have striven unsuccessfully to control the strategically placed Panjshir valley since 1979.

In the autumn of 1982, responding to growing resistance, Soviet commanders launched a massive ground and air attack. For six days, it seemed as if the Russians would succeed.

Then Massoud saw an opportunity to score decisive points against the Russians. In a lightning advance up the valley, a large element of the Russian airborne force had outpaced supplies and was in danger of being cut off.

Massoud reacted by organising his men into small mobile units, and using superior local knowledge to encircle the Soviet troops. The Russians made several costly attempts to break out, but failed. Finally, they proposed a ceasefire. Massoud agreed. He too was low on supplies, but having the upper hand, struck a hard bargain.

The ceasefire was eventually confirmed in April 1983, for an initial period of six months. The only Soviet presence in the Panjshir now is one small base at Anawa, at the mouth of the valley. The six months have now passed, and as neither side has broken the agreement, it seems that it will continue.

Although some of Massoud's rivals, particularly in Pakistan, claim that he is co-operating with the government, from what I saw, this does not appear to be true. In fact, the valley is now being used as a major training centre of Mujahideen from all over Afghanistan.

For the past four years there has been talk of unity. The Mujahideen (rebels) parties are now divided into two main camps, the Islamic fundamentalists and the Traditionalists who support the deposed king, Zahir Shah. In reality there are still over 15 separate parties and innumerable local leaders.

It is this lack of unity which, more than any other factor, has prevented the Mujahideen from reaching their full potential. In many areas of Afghanistan, the situation is so out of hand

that there are more Mujahideen casualties sustained in internecine fighting between the factions than in action against the government. The result is low morale and little popular support.

The Soviets have consolidated their position in Kabul, and in their other bases around the country. They counter-attack brutally when their own bases are threatened, but appear content to allow the Mujahideen the run of the sparse rural and mountain areas.

The rebels confine themselves chiefly to ambushing supply convoys and attacking minor posts in hit and run raids. There are exceptions to this. Rebels in Peshawar claim a string of successes against Soviet bases. In the border province of Pakhtia, one Afghan government garrison has recently fallen, and two others are under siege.

Because of the large numbers needed to encircle a base a rough, if temporary, form of unity springs up on such occasions. But this show of solidarity is rare, and until the rebels unite they have little hope of hurting the Russians enough to make them rethink their position. — FT

CSO: 4600/318

AFGHAN FIGHTERS REPORTEDLY CAPTURE 19 SOVIETS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Jan 84 p 14

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Wed. — Afghan Mujahidins have captured 19 Soviet soldiers in action since the start of the New Year, Western diplomatic sources said here.

The Mujahidins captured 12 Soviets in a major attack launched on Jan 5 on the northern Afghan town of Mazar-e-Sharif, about 60 km from the Soviet border.

Two days later they captured seven Soviet soldiers near Kabul where they had increased their activity markedly in recent weeks.

The sources said the Mujahidins allegedly killed 22 spies, including a mullah and a number of women, in the town of Shewaki.

The diplomats said electricity supply to Kabul is at the moment at its worst since the Soviet occupation four years ago after the Mujahidins destroyed one of two reactors at Pul-e-Charki on Jan 14.

The Mujahidin earlier this month destroyed another power station in Mazar-e-Sharif where they were engaged in action almost every day.

General Abdul Qodoz Rashid, commander of the 18th Afghanistan Division, was killed in the town at the end of November.

The supply situation in the town has worsened

despite its proximity to the Soviet border, the sources said.

Fighting has also increased south of Mazar-e-Sharif, along the only road leading to Kabul, and the Mujahidins repeatedly attacked convoys, especially at the northern exit of the Salang tunnel.

Few supplies from the north have thus reached the capital.

Meanwhile, according to Afghan Press reports from Islamabad, a Soviet MiG bomber was shot down by the Mujahidin in western Afghanistan's Farah province recently.

The MiG was reportedly downed by Mujahidin anti-aircraft fire when it flew to rescue a Soviet-Afghan convoy under attack near Farah town on Dec 29. — Bernama.

CSO: 4600/354

CAPTURED SOVIET SOLDIER TALKS AT NEWS CONFERENCE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Jan 84 p 16

[Text] PESHAWAR, Wed.--The Afghan resistance, at a news conference on Thursday, presented a Soviet teenager who said he was a soldier captured in Kabul while buying hashish for his commanding officer.

The 18-year-old gave his name as Razikolovich Akramov and said he served as a private in the first unit of the first troop squad in Kabul.

Akramov also said he received no military training while in the Soviet Union and was sent to Afghanistan three days after being drafted from a cotton farm in the southern Soviet Asian republic of Tadjikistan, bordering Afghanistan.

During the 45-minute news conference, Akramov said he was unable to provide a detailed account of Soviet army life in Afghanistan because he said he was captured just 13 days after arriving in the country.

Afghanistan was barred entry to many Western reporters since the December 1979 Soviet military intervention. Soviet troops are helping the Afghan Government battle the Mujahidin.

Akramov's captors said he was taken prisoner in a "bit confrontation," but closer questioning revealed he was seized on Jan. 5 outside a grocery store near the Defence Ministry in Kabul while shopping for hashish.

"We were not permitted to leave the barracks after dark," said Akramov, speaking through an interpreter. "But I told my officer that I wanted to buy some chewing tobacco (a mild narcotics known locally as niswar) and that I would buy some hashish for him if he let me go."

Akramov said he was in uniform but unarmed when he ventured out and was jumped by the Mujahidin.--AP

CSO: 4600/353

REPORTAGE ON BJP NATIONAL CONVENTION IN INDORE

Vajpayee Presidential Address

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] INDORE, January 6--THE Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, today told his partymen to work on the assumption that a coalition government would have to be formed at the Centre after the next general election.

In his presidential address at the inaugural session of the three-day national convention of the BJP, Mr. Vajpayee said the Congress had lost its hold on the southern states. West Bengal, the north-east-Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

He felt the Congress would "weigh in" with all its strength in the country's heartland "in a desperate bid to retain its electoral hold."

He believed that likeminded opposition parties could give the ruling party a fight, but added that the BJP appeared to have failed to make much headway in such a direction. The response from parties other than the Lok Dal had been luke-warm or positively cold".

Congress 'Misdeeds'

Mr. Vajpayee spoke at length on the "misdeeds" of the Congress government and its "reckless" policies that had landed the country "in a mess". He referred to the tallow scandal, the Moily tapes episode and the alleged gun running activities involving Dharendra Brahmachari.

While it was alleged that guns had been brought into the country under "a bogus licence", it was surprising that the government failed to detect any foreign hand in the matter. This was significant, considering that the government blamed either the opposition or a foreign hand for the crises in Punjab and Assam and all other problems which had done considerable damage to the country's morale.

The BJP president accused the government with having developed a "vested interest in creating a crisis atmosphere and a sense of insecurity" among the people to enable the ruling party to assume the role of "saviour and protector".

He also observed that crores of rupees had been spent on arrangements for the ASIAD, NAM and the Commonwealth conference and said the country could not afford the extravagance of renovating hotel bathrooms for foreign delegates at a cost of Rs. 1 lakh each.

He dismissed as "bogus" a government statement that 120 million people had benefitted from the integrated rural development project and the national rural employment programme and said expert opinion put the figure at about seven million people. He also alleged widespread corruption in the implementation of the programmes.

Turning to international relations, the former external affairs minister said it was regrettable that Indian diplomacy had not played any effective role in reducing international tensions.

External Ties

Regarding India's relations with neighbouring countries, Mr. Vajpayee said the strong ties established with them during the Janata rule had been replaced with mistrust and co-operation replaced with conflict. External pressures on India were bound to mount if the country did not put its own house in order.

Earlier the BJP vice-president, Mrs. Vijayeraje Scindia, stressed the need for alliance among likeminded parties to prevent a split in the opposition vote. She also said the Congress government gave "protection" to extremists in Punjab and infiltrators in Assam and, therefore, could not be expected to function in the interests of the country.

The party national council later discussed the economic resolution, which called for immediate steps to check the "waywardness" of the ruling party to save the economy from total collapse.

It also called for a reorientation of the development schemes.

Among other demands listed in the resolution were the constitution of an autonomous corporation to protect consumers' interests in matters of quality control and pricing of industrial products and the extension of the public distribution system to items such as tea, edible oils, soap and standard cloth.

PTI adds:

The BJP president said "the conduct of this government passes comprehension. It defies logic. The government seems to be hunted by a death-wish. It has lost its will, or capacity to govern."

Mrs. Gandhi's government, Mr. Vajpayee said, continued to lurch from one crisis to another, from one exposure to another. The tragedy was that it threatened to drag the rest of the society along with it, he added.

Mr. Vajpayee said Mrs. Gandhi's government was rudderless. While the country's economy was at a flash point, the ship of state seemed to have been abandoned by the government, left to the tender mercies of the winds of fortune, he said.

The rot in Assam after spreading all over the region has crossed the borders to strain India's relations with Bangladesh. The government remained silent and helpless. But even Assam was getting rapidly overshadowed by the crisis in Punjab, Mr. Vajpayee said.

In the recent by-elections, Mr. Vajpayee said, despite triangular contests, the Congress lost the Lok Sabha seat and three out of five assembly seats in U.P. Clearly the people were disenchanted with the present government and they looked forward to an alternative, he said.

On Centre-state relations, Mr. Vajpayee said his party wanted a strong Centre helped by strong states. But the government was committed to maintaining the status quo, he said.

Costly Meets

Mr. Vajpayee said the BJP believed that Centre-state relations required political, financial and administrative reforms.

He suggested the setting up of inter-state councils with the governor's role clearly defined. The Centre's power to dismiss a state government should be restrained and made subject to proper norms, he added.

A greater share of plan expenditure and revenue must be given to the state. "We want real harmony between the Centre and the states," Mr. Vajpayee said.

The BJP wanted revised priorities permitting much greater investment for rural development and welfare. To obtain justice for rural India, the party wanted price parity between industrially manufactured goods and agricultural produce on the basis of cost inputs, he said.

The BJP was in favour of making it a statutory obligation for the government to hold civic and panchayat elections periodically all over the country.

Report on 7 Jan Meeting

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by G. V. Krishnan]

[Text] INDORE, January 77--THE BJP national executive is believed to be of the view that the party should contest about 190 Lok Sabha seats in the next elections, leaving 150 seats to the Lok Dal, the other constituent of the National Democratic Alliance.

Party sources indicated that the electoral statistics was worked out on the basis of party executives' assessment of areas of BJP influence in various states.

The party president is likely to take the issue of seats distribution with Mr. Charan Singh soon in view of the BJP expectation of poll in May. A plea was made in the party executive, which held its two-day meeting earlier in the week, by several members, particularly from Bihar and U.P., that the constituencies in which the BJP would field its candidates should be decided early. Party leaders do not expect any problem with the Lok Dal on this issue. They are confident that differences that are likely to arise in respect of three or four seats in Bihar will be amicably settled.

Ties with Janata

Several members of the party executive are believed to have expressed reservations regarding alliance with the Janata Party at the national level although the political resolution adopted at the BJP national council session today appealed to likeminded parties to join the NDA and expressed the hope that they would respond in a positive manner.

In regard to the BJP's continued support to the Hegde government in Karnataka, some members wanted the party executive to fix a deadline within which the Janata Party should take "corrective steps" to improve its relations with the BJP. A national executive member, Mr. G. Y. Bhandare, from Goa, suggested March as the time limit beyond which the Janata could not expect BJP support.

The national executive, however, has not accepted the plea for such a deadline because BJP's support to the Karnataka government was guided by the party's national perspective. Besides, the BJP national leadership is not in favour of taking any step that creates an impression among the people that the party has been instrumental in bringing down the Janata government.

Although the BJP is unhappy with the Janata attitude, the Karnataka unit of the BJP is understood to have sought permission from the national executive to hold consultations regarding electoral adjustments with the Janata Party. Similarly, the BJP unit in Maharashtra is believed to have been authorised to hold such consultations with Mr. Sharad Pawar of the Congress (S).

UNI adds: The situation in Punjab and Assam dominated the debate on the political resolution at the BJP national council meeting.

Several speakers blamed the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and her government for the present situation in Punjab and alleged that the ruling party had been inclined to take all decision purely from the point of political and electoral advantage.

The party's alliance with the Lok Dal was also commented upon. While the speakers supported the NDA, more than one speaker wanted the party leadership to reiterate in the resolution that the BJP would maintain its separate identity.

The draft resolution says that the party would make all efforts to draw up an election strategy with other nationalist and democratic parties while strengthening its ties with the Lok Dal.

The party vice-president, Mr. Sikandar Bakht, set the tone of the debate by stoutly denying the charge that the NDA was reactionary and the BJP was a communal party.

As many as 67 amendments have been suggested, many of which wanted the leadership to specify in the resolution the party's attitude towards minorities and steps to widen the party's base in rural areas.

An interesting amendment came from a Goa delegate who wanted to fix February 15 as the last date for other political parties to make up their mind about joining the NDA.

PTI adds: The resolution said that "this month, the Congress government completes four years of its second term. These four years have been particularly barren. There is not a single real achievement which this common man's misery has multiplied government can claim credit for the manifold--particularly because of back-breaking inflation and the complete breakdown of law and order.

More on Resolutions

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 8 Jan 84 pp 1, 7

[Text] INDORE, Jan. 7--The Central leadership of the BJP today renewed its invitation to the Janata and its allies in the United Front for constituting a joint front with the Lok Dal, a constituent of the National Democratic Alliance, against the Congress (I) for the next general elections and sought their help to contain the perceptible softening of the CPI(M) and the CPI's attitude towards the ruling party at the Centre.

The resolution on the political situation, drafted by the BJP national executive for the adoption by the party's national council here, hoped that the Janata and other democratic and nationalist parties would respond to its invitation for having the joint front.

The resolution, which was moved this morning by the party's vice-president, Mr Sikander Bakht, was later adopted by the national council.

The strategy unfolded in the resolution evidently made it clear that there could be positive electoral understanding between the National Democratic Alliance and the United Front provided the two Communist parties were kept out of the proposed broad Opposition front.

While the resolution did not conceal BJP's hostility towards the CPI(M) and the CPI it sought to bring home the point to the Janata and others that divided Opposition could not hope to defeat the Congress (I) in the elections.

The resolution drew the attention of the Janata and others to the criticism made by the Congress (I) at its plenary in Calcutta of the NDA. In contrast to this, the Congress (I)'s attack of the two Communist parties was notably mild.

The outcome of the Calcutta plenary reflected the Congress (I)'s assessment of the relative strength of the various Opposition combinations. The resolution pointed out that while the CPI was divided on the question of supporting Mrs Gandhi and her party, the CPI(M) was perceptibly softening its attitude to the ruling party.

The BJP's Central leadership condemned the Congress (I)'s intolerance of some non-Congress (I) State Governments. However, the resolution did not take any cognizance of the open allegation made by the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Mr Farooq Abdulla, that Mrs Gandhi was attempting to topple this duly-elected Government by raising a false criticism that the law and order had failed in the State.

This attitude of the BJP remained unexplained in view of Mr Abdulla's opposition to Mrs Gandhi and her party and his positive support to the Janata and its allies.

The resolution said that the AICC(I) document at its Calcutta plenary session was "most disturbing" because it justified imposition of the Emergency in 1975. The document said that the Congress (I) felt proud of its "decision to have the Emergency which was consciously taken", the resolution said and pointed out that the Congress (I) would not hesitate to reimpose emergency if it faced ouster from power.

It was stated on the resolution that the Cong (I) rule at the Centre in the past four years was "barren". While there was a total break-down of law and order, corruption acquired legitimacy undermining the economy. The slogan of the Congress (I) the "Government that works" proved hollow and now embarrassed Congressmen. The speeches and resolutions at the plenary conspicuously omitted any mention of the slogan. Indeed the speeches and resolutions contained little other than demagogic diatribes against the Opposition and sycophantic praise for Mrs Gandhi and Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

The resolution said that the BJP Central leadership would soon draw up a charge-sheet against the Congress (I) on the three major counts--damage to national unity, rampant corruption and inflation, and subversion of democracy and democratic institutions. Lastly, the party directed its State units to organize mass demonstrations to highlight the "failures" of the Congress (I) at the Centre.

Conclusion, Press Conference

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jan 84 pp 1, 9

[Text] INDORE, January 8 (UNI)--THE Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, today called upon his partymen to be prepared to face the general elections whether they are held early or as per schedule.

"We will strengthen the National Democratic Alliance and make all efforts to have electoral adjustments with other like-minded democratic parties without sacrificing any of our principles," Mr. Vajpayee said in his concluding remarks to the party's national council, which ended its three-day session here this afternoon.

The council adopted political and economic resolutions, besides considering problems being faced by the tribal community.

Amid laughter, Mr. Vajpayee said: "Only Mrs. Indira Gandhi knows when the elections will be held, but we certainly can guess".

Action Plan

He referred to newspaper reports about increase in the support price of wheat and the possibility of holding the parliament, session ahead of schedule as possible indicators of an early election.

Mr. Vajpayee also told the council to strengthen the party organisation by setting a target of enrolling atleast one crore members during the year.

A seven-point action plan entitled "A Call" was issued by the council which, besides raising the primary membership, has asked partymen to undertake surveys of electoral rolls to ensure they were in order, to raise funds, to submit a charge-sheet against the Congress government at the Centre and in states in March this year, to organise kisan sammelans, to keep a watch on the implementation of schemes like IRDP, MRE Pand to expose corruption.

Reminding delegates of the party's pledge to provide an alternative to the Congress, Mr. Vajpayee said: "Electoral understanding with like-minded parties is necessary to dislodge Mrs. Indira Gandhi from power, whose continuance at the helm of affairs is detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country and the democratic values we stand for.

"The BJP alone cannot do this. Our progress is encouraging but not satisfactory. Therefore, we must co-operate with like-minded forces to pull the country out of the present crisis for which Mrs. Gandhi alone is responsible," Mr. Vajpayee added.

He, however, made it clear that no one would be allowed to raise the bogey of dual membership. Neither was the BJP the political front of the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RRS) nor was RSS the cultural front of the BJP, he remarked.

Mr. Vajpayee spoke in detail about the BJP-RSS relations and admitted that a large number of party workers were members of the RSS, which he described as a social and cultural organisation.

"We do not intend to interfere if any party member is active in promoting the cause of his community," he said and added: "I for one will not accept any restrictions."

He said the BJP was second to none to stand by the government in the event of a national crisis. "We did it during the Bangladesh war and we will not lag behind now. But we do not agree with Mrs. Gandhi when she says that there is danger from across the border"

The delegates cheered Mr. Vajpayee when he said Pakistan would not commit the mistake of attacking India again. But if it chose to do so, it would not survive to repeat it another time.

Mr. Vajpayee described the enhancement of the support price of wheat by one rupee a quintal as a "cruel joke" with the farmers. "This might be used for election propaganda. We believe that the farmers at least deserve between Rs. 160 to 170 a quintal. This could be done without disturbing the present issue price of wheat," he said.

Referring to the general price rise, Mr. Vajpayee said 25 per cent increase in the price of coal would ultimately lead to an overall price spiral.

Curbs Impress

He also accused Mrs. Gandhi and her government of trying to restrict the freedom of the press. In this regard, he cited the instance of a government official being appointed chairman of the central press accreditation committee.

"Not that everything appearing in the press is always correct, but we believe in the freedom of the press. Partymen are free to contradict anything that may not be correct, but they should not misbehave with newsmen," he said.

The political resolution adopted by the council expressed the party's resolve to maintain its separate identity while co-operating with other nationalist and democratic parties and strengthening the NDA. The resolution expressed the hope that the other parties would respond positively.

The resolution on the economic situation demanded abolition of sales tax, incorporation of right to work in the constitution and a need to regulate the inflow of foreign money.

The eminent economist, Mr. H. S. Deshpande's detailed analysis of tribal problem highlighted the discussion on this issue in today's meeting.

The national council also approved certain amendments in the party constitution, raising the membership of executives from lower committees to the national level.

The state units have been asked to enroll more primary members during the year raising the number from 39 lakhs in 1982 to one crore. The units have been told that the membership targets for constituencies, where the party was likely to contest the Lok Sabha poll should be particularly ambitious.

Referring to the atrocities committed on women, Harijans and tribals in several parts of the country, the BJP units have been asked to undertake a quick survey of what the government had done to punish the guilty and to rehabilitate the victims. The situation in areas like Rannathpuram where mass conversions of Harijans took place should also be examined, it said.

The BJP units have also been told to immediately undertake surveys to ensure that bogus names are eliminated from the electoral rolls and bona fide voters are enrolled. Simultaneously, the month of February would be devoted mainly to the collection of election funds for the party.

PTI adds: The BJP would oppose any attempt at toppling a state government, as it was of the view that the issue should be decided by the state legislature and not at "Raj Bhavan".

"We would oppose such attempts even if they are directed at the CPM government", Mr. Vajpayee said in reply to a question at a press conference at the end of the national council meeting.

To questions regarding his party's approach towards distribution of seats for Lok Sabha within the NDA and also with other parties in the event of electoral understandings and arrangements, Mr. Vajpayee said that there should be no difficulty in working out the distribution "provided every party desires to work unitedly."

The BJP president said that it was clear that in straight contests the Congress (I) could be defeated but constituency-wise the positions might be different.

He however, reiterated that there could not be any adjustment or understanding with the Communist parties even at state levels.

Mr. Vajpayee described as "baseless and wrong" a report published in a leading Bombay daily today giving a break-up of seats being allotted to the two partners of the National Democratic Alliance.

He said a criterion for distribution of seats would be decided after the state units in consultation with the Mandal committees prepared lists of the party's Lok Sabha candidates. The lists would later be scrutinised by the central committee for adjustments with other parties, if necessary.

In his attempt to search the basis for a common approach, he had written to only those opposition leaders who had not taken a position publicly against the BJP, Mr. Vajpayee said.

The meeting expressed serious concern over the tardy implementation of tribal development schemes in different parts of the country and urged the government to take immediate measures for their socio-economic emancipation.

A detailed paper on the tribal problems adopted by the national council demanded "revolutionary" changes in the educational system prevailing in the tribal areas to make it conducive to generating employment and showing positive results in a short period.

Patna (UNI): The national conference of the Janata party, which was scheduled to be held here from January 19 to 21, would now be held from March 1 to 4, according to the Bihar Janata party general secretary, Mr. Vijay Krishna.

Mr. Krishna told UNI that in the meanwhile, organisational elections in all states would be completed.

ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER ON FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jan 84 pp 1, 9

[Article by Vikram Rao]

[Text] HYDERABAD, January 8--THE Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao, who enters tomorrow his second year in office, believes that a mid-term Lok Sabha poll is imminent and it will be the opposition's "finest hour". His efforts to oust the Congress from power at the Centre through the medium of the ballot will be redoubled in the new year.

In an exclusive interview to mark the completion of the first year of the Telugu Desam ministry, Mr. Rama Rao dismissed as ridiculous this correspondent's question whether his party would join hands with the Congress to contest the parliamentary election.

In a stentorian voice, that marked his stellar roles in several movies, the actor-turned politician said: "The masses vote for us as an opposition party. We did not win the Andhra Pradesh assembly election as an electoral ally of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. We are a party of opposition and we shall stay as such ever."

Hopes on Tie-Up

He envisaged increasing collaboration among the Telugu Desam and other parties opposed to the Congress.

Did he plan to return to the film world after serving this tenure in office? "There is no going back now. Of course, I owe so much to the visual media. It is like my mother."

What does Mr. Rama Rao plan as his single biggest development programme in the second year of his office? The Telugu Desam chief minister said that he would announce tomorrow at a mass rally, at the Lal Bahadur Shastri stadium, the formation of mandals replacing the present panchayat samithis.

"The mandal system of panchayati raj will accelerate the various development schemes," he asserted.

The opposition parties, including the Congress, however, have apprehensions about this scheme. The Congress, which controls many of the panchayat samitis, believes that the mandal system is a political game to oust its representatives from the panchayats.

"It is just like the Centre dismissing the opposition-ministries in states," remarked a senior Congress leader. Already, three former chief ministers, Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, Mr. T. Anjaiah and Mr. Jalagam Vengal Rao, have warned Mr. Rama Rao against the mandal system.

Mr. Rama Rao proposes to form 1,100 mandals to replace the existing 330 samitis to bring about "more effective decentralisation" of the administration, ensuring intensive rural development. "This will be the biggest revolutionary change in the countryside," he claims.

But what does the Telugu Desam ministry regard as its most significant achievement in its first year of rule? "A clean administration," shot back NTR and hastened to improve on Mrs. Gandhi's famous pre-poll slogan of "a government that works," by saying that he headed a "government that is closer to the masses."

His party's 15-point "pragati padham (path to prosperity) is a blueprint for a new Andhra Pradesh.

Listing some of the specific gains, he pointed to the formation of a state-level board, allocation of the 60 per cent of plan outlay, and the raising of the incremental resources of Rs. 150 crores now being used for development projects.

Mr. Rama Rao asserts that his ministry has done for women much more than any of the previous ministries in Andhra Pradesh. A separate university has been set up at Tirupathi for women.

Legislation is on the anvil amending the Hindu succession act, giving equal rights for women to ancestral property. The government has also decided to reserve 30 per cent of jobs for women in the state government.

His pet scheme has been the Rs. 2-a-kilo rice distribution which, despite heavy odds, has been popular. The aim was primarily to make available rice to all families with incomes below Rs. 3,600 a year. But the ceiling was raised to Rs. 6,000 to qualify for the subsidised rice scheme.

It benefits about 10.8 million families. Distribution is done through a network of 31,000 fair price shops.

Families entitled to this benefit are provided with green cards to enable them to draw a maximum of 25 kg. of rice monthly. In the past year, about 1.6 million tonnes of rice has been distributed among the people--a record in the state.

A major share of this was distributed in the rural areas.

Mr. Rama Rao said: "From the word 'go', there has been no looking back for us. We have initiated a number of measures to replace the discredited political and administrative culture of the past by an honest and clean political and administrative system."

The appointment of Mr. Justice Avula Sambasiva Rao, former chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, as the first Lok Ayukt for the state is a step forward. The Lok Ayukt will deal with corruption charges against ministers, legislators, chairmen of zilla parishads and panchayat samithis, statutory corporations, cooperative societies, heads of departments and senior officials.

Even before the Lok Ayukt was instituted from November 1, the government had appointed "Dharma Maha Matra" on February 3 in place of the vigilance commission (within a month after the new government was formed).

New Culture

The original powers of the anti-corruption bureau were restored, resulting in its activation. Its functioning has become really more meaningful and socially purposeful, the chief minister claims.

Mr. Rama Rao says: "The new culture we intend to use is based on economy, austerity, efficiency and service. A number of steps have been taken in this direction."

The public sector corporations, which have been ever multiplying during the previous regimes to rehabilitate political refugees, have become a big drain on the people's purse. "We took immediate and drastic steps to regroup them into small viable and effective corporations.

The pensions to former legislators which, in fact, was an insult to public workers, have been abolished. As a part of economy measure, vigorous steps have been taken to curtail expenditure on pomp and festivity in government activity, including the tours by the ministers.

This is but a beginning of a new era of political and administrative culture. Something more has to be done. We have to tighten our belts and the principle of austerity has to permeate to all layers of political leadership and administrative machinery"

Describing the Telugu Ganga irrigation scheme as a historic achievement, he says: "Because of under-utilisation of the river waters and other water resources during the last 35 years, vast areas of the state have remained perennially drought-prone."

Telugu Ganga

The Telugu Ganga is a massive scheme involving about Rs. 650 crores which will not only irrigate approximately 2,70,000 hectares but also provide employment to lakhs.

On the delicate issue of the Centre-state relations, Mr. Rama Rao says: "It is a pointer to our case that in spite of the state assembly's resolution, seeking the abolition of the upper house, the Union government has been keeping it pending for nearly a year.

Taking shelter under constitutional and administrative provisions to stall popular will can never be justified as democratic. Whenever we try to assert our right to have our due, a false alarm of "confrontation with the Centre" is raised.

When we appeal for a reasonable evaluation of what is called Centre-state relations, we are accused of encouraging fissiparous tendencies."

The Telugu Desam party and the government were committed, heart and head, to the unity of India, at least to the extent to which the present Union government was, he concluded.

CSO: 4600/1455

MOVE TO REORGANIZE TRIPURA PANCHAYAT SYSTEM INITIATED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] AGARTALA, Jan. 5--The Tripura Government has already initiated the move to reorganize the State's panchayat system before the ensuing elections to the panchayat units, which is likely to be held in March.

To provide the State with its Panchayat Act the "Tripura Panchayat Bill 1983" was passed by the State Assembly on December 26. The process of reorganization through a fresh demarcation of the panchayat areas will be made after the Bill receives the Governor's assent. The United Province Panchayat Raj Act 1947 was earlier adopted in Tripura in May 1959 with certain modifications.

The Bill, which has envisaged the constitution of gaon panchayats as corporate bodies, provision for election of the pradhan and upam pradhan of each gaon panchayats by elected members and lowering the voting age from 21 years to 18 years on the qualifying date was vehemently opposed by the main Opposition parties, the Congress (I) and the Tripura Upajati Juba Samity.

The provision for election of a panchayat pradhan by the members elected to gaon panchayats is a modification of the existing system in which the pradhan is directly elected.

The Bill has sought to give more administrative and financial powers to the panchayat institutions so that they can have a regular flow of finance from the autonomous district council in the tribal areas, banks and other financial institutions, besides the State Government.

The State Congress (I) president as well as the leader of Opposition in the State Assembly, Mr Ashok Bhattacharjee, has alleged that the proposal for reducing the voting age is nothing but a "sinister move" to rig the election. "Thousands of boys between 11 and 17 years were found casting their votes in the civic elections here on July 3 last year to tilt the balance in favour of the CPI(M)"

Mr Shyamacharan Tripura, Tripura Upajati Juba Samity leader, felt that the new Panchayat Act would be a political instrument in the hands of CPI(M) to defeat the Opposition "in a Marxist style of democracy".

The State Minister for Panchayats, Mr Dinesh Devbarma, said here that the number of gaon sabhas would be increased to 700 from 689 at present, following fresh demarcation of the panchayat areas. He said that the ruling CPI(M) was already prepared to contest the panchayat election any time.

The State Assembly in its last session also passed the "Tripura State Rifles Bill 1983" to raise a special armed police battalion to curb tribal insurgency and trans-border crimes

According to the Chief Minister, Mr Nripen Chakrabarti, who is also in charge of the Home portfolio, the existing strength of the State's two armed police battalions is inadequate to deal with tribal extremists.

CSO: 4600/1454

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON SITUATION IN KASHMIR

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6-8 Jan 84

[6 Jan 84 p 9]

[Article by M. L. Kotru]

[Text] SRINAGAR, Jan. 5--Truth acquires fictional dimensions when it comes to Kashmir. For instance, you might have just spoken to the Jammu provincial Congress leader when someone comes along to say Mangat Ramji is hurt, or alternatively, it could be that 500 Congressmen have courted arrest in Pulwama in Kashmir and the truth may be that somewhere between 10 and 150 have staged a dharna and have been dispersed. It could also be the Jammu and Kashmir Government denying that the police had entered the Congress (I) office in Anantnag which it did and which it admits under persuasion.

An extensive tour of the State, stretched over 10 days, at once brings out the tragedy and the joy of being in Jammu and Kashmir. Of joy first. Here you have even for December the glorious sunshine in Srinagar--an ideal attraction for holiday-makers wishing to make it to the snowy peaks of Gulmarg for skiing. And yet you find the hotels less than half full. The prospective tourists, scared as before during the summer by the fear of a non-existent political instability.

Of tragedy: it centres mainly round the suspicions which continue to be deeply nurtured--35 years after the State's accession to the Union. It is these suspicions which more than anything else contribute--at least psychologically, if not in practice--to the prevalence of the fear of anti-national elements.

Anti-National Elements

Who are the anti-national elements? You would not have to hire a Sherlock Holmes to locate them. For they are there for all to see. They come in the form and shape of the People's League, the Liberation League, the ambivalent Jamaat-e-Islami, which, on the one hand, swears by the Constitution when it does not suit its immediate ends. There are fence-sitters like Maulvi Farouk's Awami Action Committee, currently riven with dissensions who are willing to play every conceivable tune as long as it assures of some, even

very minimal, political leverage. Thus, these days Maulvi Farouk is dancing to the tune of Mr Farooq Abdullah.

It is not as if the Congressmen in their individual capacities would be loathe to hobnob with such groups if it meant political gain, however illusory. It does not, therefore, come as a surprise if many members of some of the know anti-national factions have infiltrated into the Congress ranks to take advantage of the situation of flux which the partymen in the State and at the Centre are trying to create. There is the case of one Mr B. A. Tota, who at one time headed the Youth Federation of Mr G. M. Shah, son-in-law of Sheikh Abhullah, who is now--along with the Congress--the arch rival of the Chief Minister.

The federation re-incarnated itself briefly as the Youth National Conference. Now, the same Mr Tota is, according to a senior police official, the king-pin of the pro-Pakistan Youth League, and the People's Conference of Mr Lone continues to make vitriolic outbursts against the State, the Centre and anyone else within firing range.

Against this backdrop of a miniscule, though vocal and influential pro-Pakistani pockets, one would have expected the National Conference and the Congress (I) to forget their narrow political objectives and work for strengthening the secular, democratic forces. That would have been the natural thing to expect of the two parties so avowedly dedicated to the State's wellbeing. Yet rarely has there been as much bitterness as marks the attitude of the two to each other today. The National Conference, being in power, naturally has to bear the brunt of the attack which it sometimes does with grace and at other times without it. The Congress (I), on the other hand, has adopted a one-point programme: "Farooq Abdullah hatao".

In consequence, the maintenance of secular and democratic values appears to have become the first victim. Mr Abdullah knows that in order to retain his hold on the State, he must at no cost lose his grip over the predominantly Muslim valley and this he is doing with fervour. He takes every opportunity of visiting Kashmir and its remotest districts carrying with him some of his father's charisma and the undoubted advantage of having his mother--Madre-e-Meharban (the kind mother)--always by his side. It is during such gatherings that the Chief Minister, barely a year and more in office, betrays some of his youthfulness and its attendant disadvantages. For, it is here that he is carried away by his own rhetoric and says things which he perhaps would not say.

However, he, like his father, has been retaining his basically secular credentials even when he has sometimes sounded very emotional. Also, he has been sparing no effort at wooing the Jammu electorate, which largely, had gone with the Congress.

This last development is partially responsible for the kind of communal division that has come into existence between Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress (I), having wiped out the Bharatiya Janata Party in Jammu, has come to be associated in that part of the State with the aspirations of the Hindus. And the party has no means to fulfil these. Hence, the need in that part of the

State as well is for confrontation with the State Government. It is no coincidence that the Congress (I) is trying to beat Mr Farooq Abdullah with his own stick by encouraging his estranged mother-in-law, Mr G. M. Shah, and sister Begum Khalida Shah to spearhead dissensions and defections from the National Conference. Of that later. For the moment, the Chief Minister seems to be sitting pretty. With the Congress boycotting the recent election to the Legislative Council, Farooq's nominee had a cake-walk as it were. And what's more against his party's strength of 48 in Assembly, his nominee picked up an extra vote. The presumption is that the Congress-backed MLA from Kashmir voted with the ruling party.

[7 Jan 84 p 7]

[Article by M. L. Kotru]

[Text] SRINAGAR, Jan. 6--The recent happenings in this sensitive border State are not half as bad as they may appear from distant Delhi or Calcutta. The days in the summer and winter capitals of the State continue to be unseasonably warm and this may well be one of the factors which occasionally prompts political adversaries to flex their muscles in the city streets or district headquarters, more in search of headlines than political results. The political upheavals, well-rochestrated stories about which one hears so much, are for the most part non-existent.

There are no doubt incidents involving small groups of Congress (I) men and the police, but they are no different from the "dharnas", demonstrations and "gheraos" resorted to by political parties in other parts of the country.

Cong. (I) Policy

The Congress (I), for obvious reasons, has decided on a pratical course of action. After years of relative slumber in the State, the party in June last year (thanks to its magnificent showing in Jammu) got a sizeable share of seats in the State Assembly. And fired by ambition and talks of "dissensions" in the ruling National Conference, mostly exaggerated, it wishes to unnerve an administration headed by a comparative new-comer to politics, Mr Farooq Abdullah.

The Chief Minister's amateurishness helps the Congress (I). Unwittingly, he sometimes lands himself in the well-set trap for him. That he was so far managed to extricate himself out of such awkward situations, is as much due to the inherent strength of his party, particularly in the Valley as to the presence by his side of his mother, Begum Abdullah.

Then there is the reality of shortages of essential commodities, a normal true feature of Kashmiri winter. Kerosene, for instance, is in short supply, firewood not readily available, rations in short supply. This could perhaps be attributed to the geography of the place. But coupled with it is the Chief Minister's impetuosity which helps the Congress (I). And the Congress (I) has resorted to the time-honoured technique of testing the strength of an administration by mounting pressure. At one level, efforts are on to create

defections within the ruling party in the name of the Chief Minister's brother-in-law, and at another, a number of demonstrations are being staged in the twin capitals and at district headquarters.

However, to say that there is a popular upsurge against the present administration, would on the face of it be an untruth. What could be said is that the Congress (I), particularly in Jammu, where it has a credible leadership and strong pockets of support, the agitationists are very assertive and often succeed in unnerving those charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order. The incident in Bishna was no more and no less a symbol of these tactics.

Confrontation

It is in Jammu that one sees some semblance of a confrontation between the workers of the two parties although both in the Valley and in Jammu Mr Abdullah has forbidden his men from taking over from the police. He has decided to treat every demonstration as concerning law and order. And, as in most such cases, those arrested are released the same day. This is the claim the Chief Minister and his administration make.

At other places, particularly in the Valley, the Congress (I) openly charges the Chief Minister and his administration with having embarked on a campaign of vendetta. They allege that personal scores are being settled in the name of maintaining law and order. The example is cited of an engineer, the son of a former MLA, Mir Lasjan, who has allegedly been involved in a "patently" false case. One had seen the same young man playing the healer's role during the hectic poll campaign in June when he was his father's chief polling agent. The son, whose suspension from service, is also attributed to political antagonism, is now facing a trial in Badgam. The police on the other hand blame him and others for having incited acts of violence and arson.

Stray Incidents

But, essentially the incidents in the Valley are sporadic and do not involve the masses. An exception is the incident in Anantnag where, according to the Congress (I) leaders, the police acted "as an arm of the Government", and ransacked the district party office. The police claim that they did actually intervene that day but that was because the Congress (I) workers had allegedly tried to "strangulate" the Assistant Commissioner and "set fire" to the Deputy Commissioner's office.

They also claim to have entered the District Pradesh Congress (I) office but only after the partymen had illegally installed a public address system there, in violation of law, and urged the people to hit back at the police.

Most of the demonstrators had, in this case, come from the Bijebhara town, five miles away on the National Highway, and considered to be a Congress (I) citadel by the National Conference itself. A Congress (I) activist from Bijebhara, who had suffered a broken nose and a swollen left hand, testified to the Anantnag incident. According to him, Bijebhara town was 80% Congress

(I)--curiously, the Pradesh Congress chief, Mr Mufti Syed, had lost in two constituencies from this area--and it was being discriminated against. He admitted that in desperation they had blocked the National Highway a number of times which, the police argue, is a highly objectionable thing to do.

Mr Abdul Azia Turi, the Nominated National Conference chairman of the Notified Area Committee, agrees that there are shortages but says these are common to all areas. He says the activities of the Congress(I) workers in the town have made the people of the entire region despised in the valley.

According to the police, only seven persons were detained in Anantnag and have been charged under various sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. In Badgam, 23 had been detained on similar charges, in Bandipura another 23 and in Pulwama and Shopian 26 were arrested.

The others had been picked up and released the same day. As the Chief Minister put it: "What do you expect us to do Garland the people to try to kill magistrates, burn public property and intimidate my workers whom I have forbidden to retaliate? What do you expect me to do when the leader of a Shia faction (he names the leader of the Congress Legislature Party, Maulvi Iftikhar Ansari), orders his men to put up roadblocks in Magam--on the Gulmarg Road--to prevent Sunni Muslims from joining Friday prayers at Hazraihai following Id-e-Milad "In Kumpwara?" He said two policemen had nearly been killed by the time police reinforcements arrived. At Magam, 16 policemen were injured when they were removing the roadblocks, says a senior police official.

Denial

The Congress (I) leaders deny that they have tried to destroy public property or intimidate anyone. According to them, the administration, particularly the police administration, is working together with the National Conference, which the police deny. To quote a senior police official: "We have worked under some of the Congress (I) leaders who are now in opposition. Do you think it is in our culture to raise our hand against them?"

Meanwhile, the State Government has successfully moved the High Court to conduct the preliminary trials of those held on alleged criminal charges in the central and district jails and not in the courts. It may be that the administration fears further trouble if the trials are held in the regular courts.

[8 Jan 84 p 7]

[Article by M. L. Kotru]

[Text] JAMMU, Jan. 7--The State Congress (I), it appears, is keen on getting rid of the present National Conference Government, but, it knows that nothing can be done unless the Centre is convinced that now is the time to strike. For their part, the State Congress (I) leaders are trying their best to make the situation "fluid". The countless "dharnas" at various district headquarters are one link in the chain. The other, and by far the more dangerous, is the charge that the National Conference, more precisely, Mr Farooq Abdullah,

is encouraging communal elements. Mr Abdullah's alliance with Maulvi Farouk of the Awami Action Committee, the raising of anti-India slogans during the one-day Cricket International between the Indians and the West Indies and the "suppression" of secular and democratic forces are cited as evidence of the latter.

Abdullah's Stand

Mr Abdullah, for his part, is convinced that, after the breakdown of talks between him and the Congress (I), just prior to the June elections last year, the party has never been reconciled to his being the Chief Minister. He says he has proclaimed on numerous occasions that he was born an Indian and would die an Indian and that the State's links with the Union were unbreakable. He says a situation is being created to project anyone opposed to the Congress (I) as an enemy of the nation.

He is suprised that his hosting of an Opposition conclave is being misinterpreted as an act of "treason" when it should have been welcomed as an act of bravery, for here was the National Conference for the first time bringing itself into the mainstream of national politics. He rejects the charge that he becomes communal just because he has a minor adjustment with Maulvi Farouk. The Awami Action Committee Chief, he asserts has nothing to do with the policies of his Government or the programmes of the National Conference

As for the cricket incident, he says he has deplored it in strongest terms. He denies that Pakistani flags were displayed at the one-day match. He thinks his accusers do not know the difference between the Pakistani flag and that of the Jamaat-e-Islami "I have since then come down heavily on the Jamaat and all other factions with anti-national leanings" he says.

Movement

But these at best are debating points. The fact is that the Congress (I) leadership in the State has started a very vocal--which is not to be mistaken for popular--movement against Mr Abdullah. The Chief Minister, however, has asked his men to stay away from the field of action and to leave the police alone to deal with what he considers to be a law and order problem. It seems a number of "disgruntled Congressmen" are wishing to create a situation which will give the Centre an opportunity to intervene.

What form could that intervention take? Mr Managar Ram Sharma, a senior party leader from Jammu, says that his party is not being allowed to function as it would like to; that his party's democratic rights are being usurped. He alleges that the administration is acting in an extremely high-handed manner. But unlike the leaders from the Valley, he says it is not as if those who voted for a winning Congress candidate in a particular constituency are harassing the losing National Conference supporters or conversely that the winning National Conference supporters are harassing Congress (I) men; it is just that the administration is acting in an arbitrary manner. With a strength of 26 members in a 76-member Assembly, he does not expect the Congress (I) to form an alternative government in the State and he even agrees that Congress (I) rule may not be the most advisable thing to have.

What Mr Sharma does not explain is that, apart from the certain unpopularity of the move in the Valley, the imposition of President's rule in the State would automatically lead to the dissolution of the State Assembly. Unlike in the case of say a State like Assam or Haryana the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution has no provision for suspended animation of an Assembly. In other words, the President's rule must be followed by fresh elections to the Assembly which the Congress (I) could ill afford in an emotionally charged atmosphere in the wake of the dissolution of a popularly elected Assembly with a Government still enjoying majority in the dissolved House

Alternative

What alternative is left open to the Centre or the Congress leadership in the State? Ideally at least, in the view of some Congress (I) men from the Valley, it would be better to have a party Government of its own in the State. But there are the unstated rivalries within the Kashmir provincial party unit with Maulvi Iftikhar Anaepht Ansari, the leader of the Congress (I) Legislature Party, believing that if a party Government is to be formed, he alone could be the Chief Minister. For one thing, as some of his supporters say, he is the leader of the legislature party and for another he has the "solid" backing of more than 500,000 Shia Muslims unlike the Pradesh Congress president, Mufti Mohammad Syed who, it is said, had lost from both constituencies in his home district of Bijebhara. But the Mufti's supporters believe that his sacrifice and the "steadfastness" with which he has stood by the party all these years make him a clear favourite. Mr Mangat Ram Sharma, who is the most senior of the two, could well stake a claim for himself but he is too self-effacing and he says that while Maulvi Iftikhar is undoubtedly the leader of the legislature party, Mufti Syed has wide acceptance among the Congress (I) supporters.

Reality

Having said this, the reality--and seen as such by the Congress (I) men themselves--is that the party cannot hope to form a Government of its own. It must depend on the prospect of defections from the National Conference. And it is here that Mr G. M. Shah, Sheikh Abdullah's son-in-law, comes in. Mr Shah, at one time, had the National Conference firmly under his control. He inspired awe among the party rank and file. But that was during the Sheikh's life time. To be exact almost a year before the Sheikh's death.

Shah's Decline

His decline began when the Sheikh installed his son as the party president. The Sheikh went a step further and exhorted his supporters to accept Mr Farooq Abdullah as his political successor and future leader. Not many gave Mr Abdullah a chance against the more experienced Shah as the Sheikh's health began to decline. But Mr Abdullah with the help of some of his friends--one of them Mr D D Thakur, now in the opposite camp--slowly established his grip over the party machine until a time came when Mr Shah and others found themselves out of the party. Mr Shah has naturally never forgiven his brother-in-law for the "insult". And the Congress (I) men have since been wooing him, step by step. A stage has now been reached when they see him as their man

the stick to beat Mr Farooq Abdullah with. Mr Shah's wife, Khalida, has also joined the fray with her husband and this, according to the Congress (I) men is an extra bonus point. Together, these two, they believe, will be in a position to deliver the goods. But that is on paper only. At least just now it seems so.

Defections

Mr G. M. Shah has not so far been able to wean away even one of the 48 MLAs of Mr Abdullah. There was a talk at one time that six MLAs, including a Minister, might defect from the National Conference and join Mr Shah, but this has not materialized. And for Mr Shah to be of any use to the Congress (I), he must get at least 12 MLAs to cause the downfall of Mr Farooq Abdullah and to have himself installed in office with the support of the Congress (I). Mr G. M. Shah has been flying between Srinagar and Jammu, Jammu and Delhi frantically over the past few weeks and on the basis of Mr Shah's calculations, many Congress (I) men have from time to time been giving out some kind of a time-frame within which the Farooq Government would fall. The dates had to be altered from time to time but both Mr Shah and the Congress (I) men seem quite certain that defections will be there.

Mr Abdullah does not think that there will be any defections now or in the near future. He says Mr Shah's challenge to him at the party level had floundered badly. His threats to hold the meeting of the general council evoked poor response. He does not attach much importance to the presence of his sister Khalida, in Mr Shah's camp. "I have my people and by God's grace, I have my trump card, the biggest gun that Kashmir has, my mother", Mr Abdullah says. His supporters say that any National Conference MLA who defects will find himself ostracized in the valley. "Not because he has defected, but because he has betrayed the oath he took at the grave of Sher-e-Kashmir".

The Congress (I) leaders, however, are still hopeful that Mr Shah will be able to take away some of Mr Abdullah's men. They name six possible defectors. "And then nobody can accuse us of having toppled the Government. If the Shah tomorrow comes with 12 MLAs and says he is the National Conference, we will offer him our support just as we did to Sheikh Abdullah in 1975. For us and for the rest of the country, he will then be the National Conference and we would not be the topplers but only those interested in ensuring stability in the State", one of the senior Congress (I) leaders in Jammu said.

CSO: 4600/1455

RAJIV REMARKS AT BUSINESSMEN'S MEET REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jan 84 p 9

[Excerpt] NEW DELHI, January 6--MR. Rajiv Gandhi, M.P. and general secretary of the AICC, said today that controls were necessary in a mixed economy but they should be such as to cause less corruption and the least harassment to the people.

Inaugurating an all-India businessmen's convention organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Gandhi said the government had attempted to relax controls from time to time but this had often led to misuse.

He therefore advised the business community to devise a system of self-regulation so that the government did not have to take recourse to controls.

Mr. Gandhi expressed his sympathy with the main demands of the trading community such as the abolition of octroi and replacement of sales tax with additional excise duty.

Excise Duty

However, he pointed out that additional excise duty had to be levied in all the states and West Bengal and Tamil Nadu could not say that they would not accept it.

He said the Congress had listed 40 items on which sales tax could be removed but there were difficulties in accepting the proposal. In the case of wheat and cereals, for instance, Punjab and Haryana had expressed their uneasiness about removing sales tax because their main revenue came from it.

Referring to the huge amounts of black money in the country, Mr. Gandhi asked the business community to cooperate with the government in controlling it.

Making a dig at the bureaucracy, he said it often sat tight on good proposals causing delay in their acceptance and implementation.

PLANS TO PROTECT EMIGRANT WORKERS DESCRIBED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by S. Dharmarajan]

[Text] NEW DELHI, January 8--APPOINTMENT of labour attaches in Indian missions in countries with sizable numbers of emigrants and evasion of a welfare fund for those who return are under study as a follow-up to the new law aimed at ending malpractices of those engaged in manpower export.

The newly appointed protector-general of emigrants under the law, Mr. Ashok Tandon, who has [n]ixed January 30 as the last date of registration by the recruiting agents, feels that the rules are sufficiently stringent to deter anyone from cheating unsuspecting job-seekers.

An estimated 250,000 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers secured employment in West Asian countries last year in spite of the oil slump. Mr. Tandon expects a similar labour outflow this year though the demand from individual countries might vary depending on the type of development activity.

Since the supreme court judgement five years ago, which obviated the need for licensing, a lot of recruiting agencies have mushroomed. Estimates place them between 2,500-3000. The precise figure could not be ascertained because till last year there was no system of compulsory registration.

Registration Needed

Now under the law, a recruiting agent will have to register with the labour ministry by providing, apart from an application fee and an affidavit before a magistrate on financial standing, a bank guarantee of a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh for hiring 100 workers. This is progressively raised to Rs. 5 lakhs for recruitment of 1,000 people and above.

The law which applies to skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour further stipulates that they cannot charge more than Rs. 1,750 from anyone for securing a job. This payment will be against a formal receipt.

There are separate rules for direct recruitment by employers. In their case, the permit would be valid for six months, where as the registered agent could carry on business for three years after fulfilling the formalities.

The need for the new law stemmed from a spate of complaints received by the government. But the number of victims of fraud could not be known because many prefer not to pursue their case.

Nonetheless, in the first half of 1983, 105 complaints had been received. Each complaint related to a large number of victims.

Most of these complaints did not provide all the data required for satisfactory investigation. The complaints pertained to extortion, contract substitution, non-payment of wages, premature termination of contracts, unsatisfactory living and working conditions, non-payment of compensation and neglect even in case of death and disability.

The new laws and rules framed under it have taken care of all these types of complaints. These could not be met by bilateral agreements, as the labour laws of the contracting countries are so disparate that reaching consensus on operative provisions will not be normally feasible.

Labour-importing countries generally would prefer to adopt an open-market policy. Bilateral agreements can be worked out on government-to-government basis, but this will be covering only limited sectors of the economy, thereby restricting the free flow of emigrants. Till the enactment of the Emigration Act there was no satisfactory framework within which any agreement could be contemplated.

Offenders under the new law can be punished with imprisonment of upto two years and a fine of Rs. 2,000. All offences are cognizable. The agent's security will be forfeited. They will also be debarred from continuing their business. The holder of the recruitment certificate will in no event employ sub-agents.

The certificate holder will further maintain a register of receipts of charges levied from emigrants, records of pre-paid ticket advices, bio-data of each emigrant, copies of employment contracts as authenticated by the protector of emigrants and original correspondence with the employer.

Further, the certificate holder will have to furnish a monthly return to the protector of emigrants on the number of people deployed abroad, charges recovered from emigrants, number of persons repatriated by the employer, visas received and utilised and fees received from employers in foreign exchange.

Since quite a large numbers of job aspirants may not be fully aware of the provisions of the law, Mr. Tandon says the government proposes to make greater use of radio and Doordarshan to publicise the provisions. Further, a brochure containing the do's and don'ts for the emigrants has been published in regional languages and sent to the state government for wider publicity. A news feature has been prepared by the films division describing the emigration procedure; a counter to help complainants has been opened in the ministry of labour in Delhi.

A proposal is afoot to strengthen the Indian missions abroad by appointing labour attaches in countries where there are more than 100,000 emigrants.

Four state governments namely, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Orissa have set-up corporations to handle the export of manpower. These corporations are expected to compete with the private recruiting agencies in the open market. In addition, some state governments like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Delhi administration are contemplating setting up similar agencies.

Welfare Fund

In respect of unskilled workers, particularly those employed in construction activity, who are repatriated, among other suitable resettlement schemes, a proposal is under study by the labour ministry to set-up a welfare fund for the repatriates, which could be raised from a special fee charged on those who go out for employment.

While the law is primarily concerned with recruiting agencies, it also takes care of those directly recruited by a foreign employer. Person who has been recruited by a foreign employer will be required to deposit one-way return fare, calculated from the place of employment to the place of origin, on the basis of the International Air Transport Association fare structure, as security.

In any event no Indian citizen (unless exempted) can leave the country for taking up work abroad without obtaining a certificate of emigration clearance.

The precise number of Indian workers now employed in West Asian countries is not known. According to computations by the missions abroad, the maximum number (2.5 lakhs) is in the United Arab Emirates, followed by Kuwait (1.15 lakhs), and Oman and Saudi Arabia (1 lakh each).

CSO: 4600/1455

COAL PRICE RISE OF 25 PERCENT IN EFFECT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, January 7--COAL consumers such as industry, power plants and the railways will have to pay Rs. 500 crores more in a full year as a result of the increased prices that came into effect from tomorrow.

But even this increase will not be able to wipe out the huge losses of Coal India which has to pay a higher wage bill and meet increased cost of production. The coal industry will get an additional Rs. 125 crores in the remaining three months of the current financial year.

The revision in coal prices follows a report by the bureau of industrial costs and prices in July 1983. The government took some time to take this unpalatable but necessary decision in the face of inflationary pressures.

The average price of coal will go up from Rs. 145.90 per tonne to Rs. 183 per tonne (about 25 per cent) in the case of Coal India Limited and from Rs. 154-75 to Rs. 192 per tonne in the case of Singareni collieries.

The price of soft coke, used as domestic fuel, has been kept at the existing level of Rs. 175 per tonne, about Rs. 120 below the cost price of manufacturing the fuel.

Hike in Inputs Cost

Coal prices were last revised in May 1982. Since then, there has been substantial increase in the cost of inputs like stores and power, according to an official spokesman. The recent wage agreement with retrospective effect from January 1, 1983, alone would cost the companies about Rs. 200 crores per annum.

According to the spokesman, the public sector coal companies would incur substantial losses if the prices were not raised. The cost of production was expected to go up further during 1984-85.

The new grade-wise price structure also provides for a premium of Rs. 25 per tonne for high quality coals of specified collieries in the Raniganj (West Bengal) and Korea-Rewa (M.P.) coalfields which have special burning characteristics.

As for the burden on the main consumers, the steel industry will have to pay Rs. 87.2 crores more, the cement industry Rs. 36.76 crores and the railway will have to pay Rs. 65 crores.

UNI adds: The coal department secretary, Mr. S. B. Lal, told newsmen the revised prices would remain in force until March 31, 1985.

Another feature of the new price structure is that the prices of the lowest two grades of coking coal have been kept more or less at the earlier level to provide an incentive to the companies to improve the quality of coking coal.

Power Sector

Referring to the various other recommendations of the BICP relating to beneficiation and gradation of coal and levy of surcharge on coal prices to create a development fund, he said, these would be examined by a committee of secretaries and decisions would be taken soon.

Percentagewise the increases would be 1.86 per cent for the railways, 3.5 per cent for steel and 4.39 per cent for the cement industry.

For the power sector, though the exact figure was not available, it is estimated that it would mean an additional expenditure of 1.5 to 1.7 per cent.

Mr. Lal said the government was aware that the price hike would affect a large section of the consumers. Still it had been done to make the coal sector viable and induce additional investments to realise the planned increases in coal targets. Still part of the increase in the operational cost of the coal sector would be met by subsidises to keep the inflationary spiral under check, he added.

Mr. Lal said the department had sought an average price of Rs. 210 per tonne to cover the increased costs fully and give adequate return on the capital. As it was, the government had allowed no return on capital and turned down certain expenditure and asked for greater efficiency. Coal India would end the year in a loss, despite the price increases, he said.

He was hopeful of reaching the current year's target of 123 million tonnes for Coal India, 15 million tonnes for Singareni and 4 million tonnes for miscellaneous coalfields.

CSO: 4600/1454

COMMISSION ON WOMEN: CHAIRWOMAN TAKES CHARGE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Jan. 18: Begum Zari Sarfraz has assumed the charge as Chairman of the 'Pakistan Commission on the Status of Women' with its headquarters at Islamabad. She has been given status of the Minister of State.

The commission, will undertake an indepth study on the role, rights and obligations of women and will suggest ways and means to remove difficulties, if any, in order to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life in accordance with the tenets of Islam.

The Commission would be an advisory body and would process its recommendations, proposals and findings to the President through the Women's Division.

The Commission will consist of the following twelve other female members namely Begum M. Salim Khan from NWFP; Mrs. D.J. Kalkobad and Begum Saida Qazi Isa from Baluchistan; Khanum Gauhar Aijaz, Mrs. Mumtaz Rashdi and Begum Anwar G. Ahmad from Sind; Dr. (Miss) Riffat Rashid, Mrs. Mumtaz Kremet, Dr. Bilqis Fatima and Mrs. Nisar Fatima from Punjab; Mrs. Anis Mirza from Federal Area and a nominee of the Majlis-e-Shoora, Begum Razia Azizuddin.

Three male members of the Commission are Khalid Ishaque, Prof. Karar Hussain and Dr. Z.A. Hashmi while Secretary to the Commission would be a nominee of the Secretary of the Women's Division.

Secretaries of the four ministries namely Law and Parliamentary Affairs; Religious Affairs and Minis-

try Affairs, Health, Special Education and Social Welfare; and Education would be Ex-Officio Members of the Commission.

The first 2-day meeting of the Pakistan Commission on the Status of Women will Commence at P Block Auditorium, Islamabad on January 26 at 10.30 a.m. - PR

PHOTOGRAPHS OF WOMEN ON IDENTITY CARDS OPPOSED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 13 Jan 84 Magazine p 1

/Article by Abou Mariam in column "Point of View": "Photographs of Women on Identity Cards"/

/Text/ A few days ago, President Zia stressed the importance of voting and said that women should vote as well but that women who cast their votes would have to attach photographs of themselves to their identity cards in order to check voting fraud. President Zia is quite justified in saying that steps should be taken to stop fraud in elections. The way women voted made fraud possible because women were exempted from attaching photos to their identity cards, and candidates sent women with borrowed identity cards to vote for them. Attaching photographs to these cards would reduce this kind of fraud, but it would pose a problem that arose before when the system of identity cards was introduced. At that time, women were exempted from the requirement of including photographs on identity cards because of demands by the ulema /theologians or religious scholars/. Eighty percent of the women in Pakistan observe purdah /the veil/ and it is difficult for them to set their purdah aside and have their photographs taken to be attached to their identity cards.

No one denies that the observance of purdah by women is a fundamental tenet of Islam, which specifies that women should not uncover themselves unnecessarily, and this injunction includes the face. Women have been excused from participating in communal prayers so as not to violate their purdah. It is not known what report formed the basis of President Zia's decision to require photographs on identity cards held by women. Mr President, certain elements in this country have been trying for years to make women as free and unveiled as those in Western countries. The greatest obstacle to this have been Islamic precepts; hence, efforts are made to pass laws under cover of which it would be possible to move the people away from Islam. There are numerous examples of laws having been passed that clearly contravene Islamic laws; but such contravention has always been excused on the basis that there was no other alternative.

There is much talk of women's rights but under cover of these rights women are being led toward renouncing the veil. When women were permitted to take part in sports, it was specified that male spectators would not be allowed and that these sports would not be put on display. Unfortunately, none of these stipulations has been observed. Women's sports are played in front of men, covered by

newspapers and shown on television programs watched by hundreds of thousands of viewers. Women's sports conferences are held separately, but photographs of these conferences are published in newspapers and shown on television.

The present regulation concerning women's identity cards is the last link in the chain. There are women in this country who have not gone to Haj for the sole reason that they would have to be photographed. They preferred not to perform a religious duty rather than be forced to commit a sin. Identity cards, however, are a hardship that cannot be avoided. On the one hand, those who do not vote are threatened with prosecution; and on the other hand, all female identity card holders are required to attach their pictures to their cards. The only purpose for this order appears to be the destruction of the Islamic law of purdah. In a country where thousands of identity cards have been forged, attaching the photographs of women to their cards will not end fraud; but it will result in either depriving innumerable women of their identity cards or violating their purdah. We ask that the president withdraw the order if it has not yet been issued and also not allow photographs of events and programs featuring women to be published in newspapers or shown on television. Such things do not add to women's rights but only make a spectacle of them and give rise to prostitution and immodesty.

9863

CSO: 4656/69

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON IDENTITY CARD PHOTOS FOR WOMEN SUPPORTED

Karachi AMN in Urdu 1 Jan 84 p 2 .

/Article by Juma Khan: "If Photographs on Women's Passports Are Considered Necessary For the Haj Pilgrimage, Why Are Photographs of Women on Their Identity Cards Not Considered Acceptable?"

/Excerpt Up to now in Pakistan it was not considered necessary to have photographs of women on their identity cards. Women who observed purdah /the veil enjoyed the privilege of not attaching their photographs to their identity cards, a thumbprint was considered sufficient. When it was announced that henceforth it would be necessary to attach photographs of women to their identity cards, the proposal was strongly criticized in certain circles on the grounds that it would violate the purdah of the women who observe it. If the government required all women to attach their photographs to their identity cards, those who observe purdah would be faced with a great dilemma: if they wished to exert their right to vote, they would have to have their photographs taken, which would necessitate their abandoning purdah. If they held the purdah more important, they would have to refuse to have their photograph taken for their identity card and thus forgo their right to vote. These ladies will have to decide which of the two is more important to them: exercising their right to vote or observing purdah.

A fact that deserves attention here is that many Islamic thinkers such as Maulana Maududi hold the view that men also are forbidden to have their photographs taken and do not like their photographs or those of others to be taken. They consider such photographs contrary to religious law on the grounds that this law forbids the building of statues and the drawing of likenesses. The federal Shariat Court, however, has declared that if necessary, a Muslim may have his photograph taken.

It should be noted that we pray facing the Kaaba, which is in Saudi Arabia, where the shrine of the Prophet Mohammad is also located. The government of Saudi Arabia requires all pilgrims, including women, to attach photographs to their passports. Muslims from all parts of the world, men and women, who travel to Saudi Arabia to fulfill the requirement of haj have to have their photographs in their passports.

Those individuals who are protesting against President Zia's announcement that photographs will be required on all identity cards held by Muslim women should give thought to this matter: if the Saudi Government requires that Muslim women, who wish to fulfill the haj duty have to include their photographs in their passports, how can a regulation intended to check fraudulent voting by requiring Muslim women to attach their photographs to their identity cards be considered un-Islamic? The decision of the federal Shariat Court that if necessary a Muslim's photograph can be taken should put an end to the protests against requiring women to attach their photographs to their identity cards on the grounds that it violates their purdah.

There are no women in the federal or provincial cabinets or in the Federal Council who wear tentlike Buqas /long outer garment/ or whose photographs do not appear in the newspapers. If tentlike veils fulfill the requirement of Islamic purdah, then either such veils should be declared mandatory or the theologians should clarify how much purdah should be observed by Muslim women in these times.

If the purdah regulations of Saudi Arabia or Iran are to be used as examples, then as a matter of principle it would become necessary to place restrictions on Pakistani and foreign films; close down movie houses; have purdah observed in television programs; forbid newspapers to publish photographs of unveiled women; ban unveiled women from appearing in public and if an unveiled woman should appear in the market place, give the police the right to arrest her. Can we do these things? We have to keep two considerations in mind: what can be done today and what will be possible tomorrow.

9863

CSO: 4656/69

EDITORIAL ADVISES RULERS TO ESCHEW FALSE ASSESSMENTS

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 5-11 Dec 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Accept the Facts"]

[Text] Leaders of our country's various governments have the habit of making statements that contradict the facts. We would say that it is not a habit but an inheritance that is bestowed on incumbent rulers. Our present rulers are no exception. You must have heard such comments from our leaders as, "Our country is at peace," "Respect for the veil and staying at home by women has increased compared with the past," "Crime in our country has been eradicated, criminals are inactive, the output of electricity has increased, far-flung villages are bright with electric lights, the standard of education in our country has improved, educated young men do not have to look for jobs any more and the standard of living in our country is dramatically improved" and so forth.

Such statements are published by our leading newspapers and journals with glorious headlines. Radio and television also give prominence to such reports. Radio and television are, after all, the government's own media, but we are surprised at the newspapers, which claim to portray the truth. They publish such statements immediately, with comments praising the leaders issuing these statements.

Recently, we had the privilege of reading several such colorful statements and noted how contrary to the facts these statements are. The government is under the false impression that such statements can hide the awful truth and that people, even when dying of hunger, will be pleased with such statements. If we might speak frankly, we would say that the statements under question are total fabrications. They have no relationship to the facts. We cannot imagine what these leaders base their statements on. In fact, everywhere in our country there are problems, agitations, lack of faith and dissatisfaction. The absence of democracy has become a sickness in our society and we are saddened at the lack of any political rights. The voicing of dissent results in shame. Education is available but there is no respect for the educated. Who does not know how difficult it is to obtain justice. Nobody in power knows how graft has increased. No one comes forward to comment on such things!

Stories of self-sufficiency in agricultural products are circulated even when people cannot even buy an onion. The common man cannot afford to buy onions at 16 rupees a kilogram. The reasons given for the increase in prices of ghee are at best ridiculous. A poor man on becoming ill prefers death to seeing doctors demanding high fees. What can we say under such circumstances except that such a horrible situation in any country always results in revolution. Such a sad state of affairs gives birth to anarchy which destroys the rulers. We would like to say that the hiding of the truth is never effective. Our rulers are better advised to make more honest statements instead of trying to fool people with fictitious tales.

7997

CSO: 4656/67

SHARIAT COURT HEAD SPEAKS ON QAZIS' ROLE, PRIVILEGES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 84 pp 1, 3

[Article by Anwar Iqbal]

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Jan. 20: 'One Qazi for each police station and every Qazi to get Grade 17 and other related benefits'. So observed Justice Aftab Hussain, Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court, in an exclusive interview with The Muslim.

'Islam says that a court should be within walking distance of a man's residence so that he can dispose of his business on the same day. That's why it has been decided to have a Qazi court in every police station' he added.

The Chief Justice said the main purpose of a Qazi court will be 'to dispose of cases as quickly as possible'. They will have to decide cases within a statutory time limit.

These goals, Aftab Hussain said, could also be achieved by enhancing the present number of courts but the term 'Qazi' had a special significance in Islamic history. It would take us closer to Shariah, and the sanctity which is attached to the religious concept of justice will help the people in avoiding un-Islamic practices, the Judge added.

Asked if he thought that the present presiding officers of the judiciary were not capable of administering justice in accordance with Islam, he said he had full confidence in the present courts of law. But 'what we require is not change of duty or assignment of new jobs.

What we need is a change of heart'.

The Chief Justice said a Qazi will have detailed knowledge of

Shariah, Sunnah, the concepts of the Holy Quran and the teachings of the great jurists of the early centuries. He will also be aware of the concept of 'Ijtihad' and have a profound grasp of the present statutory laws. These features will distinguish a Qazi court from the other courts.

Justice Aftab said that the present courts were flooded with litigation and therefore not in a position to dispose of cases in time while the Qazi Courts Ordinance has ensured speedy disposal of cases.

He said there will be no bar on the appointment of the present incumbents of the judicial courts. However, before the Ordinance is implemented and the Qazi courts start working, these functionaries will have to enhance their knowledge of Quran and Sunnah and the laws of Fiqh.

To know whether they have really enhanced their knowledge, a written test could be prescribed, he added. He said that a proposal was under consideration to set up a training academy for the judicial officers but enhancing knowledge of Shariah should not be difficult for the present officers of the judiciary. After all they are all law graduates and have years of practical experience. They have also studied Shariah at the law colleges.

However, the Chief Justice observed, a Qazi does not have to be a law graduate. But this should not be taken as an effort to minimise the importance of the lawyers. A law graduate has more chances than an alim. It should not be an uphill task for him to learn Shariah but it could really be an uphill task for an alim to learn the present law and

to compete with lawyers.

When asked about those presiding officers who were not law graduates, like Assistant Commissioners and some of the magistrates, he said, he could not say anything about a particular cadre. He refused to comment when asked whether a presiding officer was capable of doing justice without having a proper education in law and said it was for the government to determine.

He said a Qazi court will have the power of administering both criminal and civil laws. Talking about the procedures to be adopted by the Qazi courts, he said, criminal cases may be brought by the police and private complaints may also be filed before a Qazi court.

However, he said, the government was considering some changes in the police department itself. As long as the police also performs the duties of an investigation agency, quick disposal of cases will not be possible.

The police are always busy in maintaining law and order, controlling traffic and in other duties. They have no time for investigation, he added. The investigation, the Chief Justice of the FSC said, should not be the duty of a 'Thanedar'. After all, tracing or arresting an accused was different from investigating about him.

Investigation, Justice Aftab said, requires special training and those who are trained for the maintenance of law and order cannot do that. In the districts, he said, where the Qazi courts are being established on experimental basis, investigation is also being separated.

Similarly, he said, the prosecution department will also be separated from the police and the prosecution officers will function under the district attorney instead of an attached section of the district police. The prosecution officers, he said, will also be upgraded as already announced by the government.

Asked in this connection whether the government would also separate the judiciary from the executive, he said he believed in such separation and was one of those who think that no additional expenses were required for this. He added that now that the Qazi courts were being set up, it was the most appropriate time to accomplish this.

Replying to another question he said that the establishment of Qazi courts will not be a disadvantage for the lawyers as some of them believe.

'Rather it will be an additional blessing. It will be an incentive for the employment of lawyers as Qazis and their need for appearance in the courts can never be minimised.

Islam, Justice Aftab Hussain said, puts no curb on lawyers. On the other hand there is an opinion in Fiqh that if a person brings another person to the court for his help, he should be allowed to do so.

Asked if a poor accused will be provided with a lawyer in the Qazi courts, the Chief Justice said, a poor accused in given legal assistance only in cases punishable with death. In other cases he is not entitled. However, in Shariat courts, he said, even in ordinary cases a poor accused may be provided with legal assistance.

This shortcoming in other courts can be overcome by setting up legal aid committees. 'But this should be done by the people as the government was not in a position to do that'.

Asked whether a man can get justice without the help of a lawyer or not, he said it was difficult because there are so many laws that it was not possible for a layman to conduct his case without the assistance of the lawyer.

'The question whether a witness is reliable or not can be determined satisfactorily by his cross-examination which itself is an art and no layman can successfully cross-examine a witness', said Chief Justice of the FSC.

Asked if the present police was fit for implementing Shariah laws, he said if the present police officials gave up their old practice of refusing to register a case, bring only truthful witnesses before the courts, many faults could be remedied.

Talking about the complaints against police, he said separation of the investigation agency will minimise the chances of corruption.

He said it was wrong to say that a court has to depend on an FIR. 'Judges do not take matters blindfoldedly and it is also a principle in Fiqh Hanfia that if a person delays in giving report or producing witnesses before a reasonable court, the court may not rely upon the report or the witness. This principle, which is called the principle of Taqadum, is also followed in replying upon an FIR', said Justice Aftab Hussain.

He agreed that even an FIR brought before the court in time could be false but said that at the most one can put checks and counter checks on the police or any other department dealing with the public.

The fault is not of the police only. If our social setup is OK, everything will be alright. What we require is complete change of society', he said.

He said one way to minimise temptation is to give more benefits to the officials dealing with the public and that's why the Qazi's are being given Grade - 17 with all other benefits of that grade.

Justice Aftab Hussain said that there was already a law to check the malpractices of the officials which has unfortunately never been implemented.

Under this law, he said, if a man was living beyond his known means of income, he shall be presumed to be living on unlawful earnings.

He said, a presiding officer should not have more than 400-500 cases on his file at a time and only then he should be expected to dispose off cases without delay.

A Qazi, he said, will decide a case within a fixed time and if he fails to do so, there may be room for higher officials to ask the reason for delay and warn

him to speed up.

He said, he did not know whether there was any scheme for training the police for the Shariat laws but he believed they should be trained in Shariat as well.

To the question why some of the judges are employed on an adhoc basis and why they are given extension after every year he said, 'Ask the Law Department.' Then added, 'In our court only those who have been re-employed after their retirement or the religious scholars are on adhoc basis. The rest are permanent'.

Replying to another question he said it is the President who decides whether an adhoc judge should be given extension after the expiry of his period of contract and this decision is made on the basis of the reports about his physical and intellectual capabilities.

He said during his long association with the judiciary he was never approached by the higher authorities and no one ever tried to influence his judgment. He said none of his colleagues have ever complained of such interference.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER PLANNED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Jan. 17: An International Convention Centre will be constructed in Islamabad having a seating capacity of 1000 persons with connected conference halls, committee rooms, VIP rooms for the visiting heads of state and delegations, the Ministry of Planning and Development sources said here today.

According to the sources, it was decided in the cabinet committee, appointed by the president, on the construction of a cultural complex at Islamabad. The committee met here this week under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mahbubul Haq, Federal Minister for Planning and Development.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Minister for Education, Secretary Culture, Chairman, CDA and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Planning Division and the Ministry of Culture and Sports. The committee studied the plans and design of major components of the cultural complex.

The international convention centre/conference hall will be constructed, with a view to provide adequate facilities of international standards for holding moots, conventions and conferences of international organisations both governmental and non-governmental.

The committee also discussed the ancillary facilities which would

be needed for a large convention centre of such dimensions.

The complex, will be developed as an integrated monument, reflecting both the contribution of Islam to the development of literature, art, architecture, science, technology and the human thought, and the historical and cultural heritage of Pakistan. —APP

TI VOICES CONCERN OVER HIGH PRICES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Jan 84 p 6

[Article by Murtaza Malik]

[Text] PESHAWAR, Jan. 21: The Provincial Committee of the defunct Tehrike Istiqlal has expressed deep concern over the high prices of essential commodities which, it observed, had made the life of the people miserable.

The Committee which met here on Friday under the chairmanship of Syed Munir Shah said that the rapidly increasing cost of living had added to the social evil. Corruption, thefts and robberies had become a regular and common feature, while the law and order was in sorry shape. Embezzlements in the banks, it added, had also gone up.

While discussing the economic and political situation in the country, the meeting reiterated that the Tehrik will continue its struggle till the complete restoration of democracy. It described as baseless the government propaganda that the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy had failed. The fact was that the number of sacrifices and arrests offered this time were unprecedented. It feared that the struggle could take a dangerous direction if the government did not realise the gravity of the situation and change its oppressive policies. It therefore called for the release of all the detained MRD men, lifting of ban on political parties and activities and holding of elections under the 1973 Constitution to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people.

The Committee also paid tributes to all those who had suffered during the MRD struggle.

CSO: 4600/332

KHUHRO TALKS ABOUT SINDHI RESENTMENT, DEMANDS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Jan 84 p 8

[Text] HYDERABAD, Jan. 19: Addressing a large gathering at Sunn on the occasion of the 81st birthday of Mr. G.M. Syed, Dr. Hameeda Khuhro warned the Government that the demands of the people of Sind may soon escalate beyond provincial autonomy, restoration of democracy or parity.

She said that the previous MRD movement was unplanned but the next movement will be different story. She said Wali Khan's jibe that the people of Sind were cowards had been proved false in the recent MRD movement. The people of Sind, Hameeda Khuhro said, had fought without arms during the movement but now they were well trained.

She charged the government with hiding the casualty figures and said that one American journalist had informed her that 832 persons were killed and 2031 injured in Sind. She said when the people of Sind sent medicines for those who had been injured and were admitted to hospitals, the authorities returned them. The ideology of G.M. Syed, she said, has awakened the people of Sind.

She also read out a message sent by Akbar Khan Bugti to G.M. Syed. In his message, Bugti told the people of Sind that they would not achieve their goal until and unless they took practical steps. He assured the people of Sind that Baluchistan would back them up in their struggle.

CSO: 4600/329

CONFERENCE ON ACCELERATING SIND DEVELOPMENT PLANNED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] KARACHI, Jan. 19: A special conference will be convened in the interior of Sind in early March to evolve a strategy for accelerating the pace of development in the rural areas of the province, Dr. Mahbubul Haq, Federal Minister for Planning said here today.

He was briefing newsmen on his 100-minute meeting with the provincial Governor Lt. Gen. S. M. Abbasi at the Sind Secretariat this morning.

In the "wide-ranging discussions" the Governor and the Planning Minister agreed on the need for a special conference to analyse the problems of Rural Sind. They felt that official efforts should be focused on drawing up concrete programmes and projects for rural development according to the Sixth Plan priorities and policies.

Apart from officials from the Planning Commission and the Sind Government, the conference would be attended by policy makers and both foreign and local experts.

Dr. Mahbubul Haq said the Governor felt that the same energy and commitment should go to prepare concrete programme for development of Rural Sind which had gone into the special development programme for Karachi estimated to cost Rs. 3.4 billion in the public sector and Rs. 1.35 billion in the private sector.

The Planning Minister said the conference would also discuss the adoption of technology that could turn brackish water into drinking water and also use brackish water for irrigation purposes. A German team of experts is already here and more experts would come to study what can be done in this area.

Dr. Haq said besides the special plan for Karachi, a sum of Rs. two billion would be spent on the city under the normal programme of the Sind Government and also in addition to what the local authorities are doing. He revealed that a sum of Rs. 30 billion would be spent in Karachi for provision of public services during the Sixth Plan Period. These include programmes funded by the Federal Government, private sector and departments responsible for electricity, telephone or ports, housing etc.

The Planning Minister said the special plan for Karachi had received "extremely favourable response" and "considerable support" which justified the confidence that majority of the projects would be picked by donors. He held out the assurance that enough domestic and external resources would be available for the special plan.

He said negotiations with aid giving agencies would start in March and the plan would be presented before the pledging session of the consortium in April. The execution of the projects would start from the budget year 1984-85.

Dr. Haq said the government would also look into the possibility of development of a Right Bank drainage outfall Project on the pattern of the Left Bank Drainage outfall (LBDO), costing about 644 million dollars. The LBDO would greatly revolutionise agricultural production in Nawabshah, Sanghar, Badin and Tharparkar. He said two-thirds of the finances required for LBDO have been lined up from the IBRD, ADB, Canada and the U.K. "Given all the indications, he added, the balance amount will be forthcoming and the project would be fully funded". He said Larkana,

Dadu and Thatta would benefit from the RBDO.

He said preparation of the RBDO feasibility would be undertaken now though the project which would be executed under the seventh plan.

In his discussions with the Governor Dr. Haq also agreed to look into the possibility of a Rs. 520 million alternative bridge on Indus at Kotri. He said feasibility study on replacement and repairs of Sukkur Barrage would be ready by June and the implementation of the project would start from next fiscal year.

THREE MODERN AIRPORTS PLANNED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] QUETTA, Jan. 20: A master plan for the construction of three modern airports at Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore is expected to be ready in about two months time. It was learnt here today.

The new airports would cost Rs. 4,500 million to be financed mostly through the Civil Aviation Authority's own resources and with credits to be raised by the C.A.A.

Meanwhile the first phase of the C.A.A action plan providing for the urgent expansion and renovation of the existing 24 airports in the country has been completed.

Work on the second phase is in progress providing for modernisation and expansion of the airports and adding a few more to bring the people of far-flung areas still closer to each other. It would promote national integration and economic cohesion of the nation.

These sources said with the completion of the third and final

phase all the navigational aids would be integrated with the communication system and radars in the country. PPI

CSO: 4600/331

SOLAR SYSTEM TO ELECTRIFY 430 VILLAGES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Sikandar Hayat]

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Jan. 21: 430 KWP, of which the recently opened station at village Bhaddin, Sialkot produces 20 KWP.

villages will be electrified through solar photovoltaic system within 1984, it was learnt here today. Most of these villages are either too small or too remote to qualify economically or technically for connection from the national grid.

Of these villages 235 belong to Baluchistan. The Sixth Plan, now in its first year of implementation, envisages the extension of electricity to 22,500 villages. An energy expert said that without seriously considering the potential of renewable sources like biomass, solar and wind the Sixth Plan, rural electrification programme will fall short of the target.

By the end of the year over 400 KWP will be available through exploitation of various sources, with the breakup solar photovoltaic 225 KWP, wind 40 KWP, and bio-electrification 30 KWP. By now three solar systems already in operation produce 45

The biggest solar station will be set up in Kharan, Baluchistan with capacity of 100 KWP. The first system was set up at Mimuala near Chakwal in 1980, which has a generating capacity of 5 KWP.

In all about Rs. 1200 million are expected to be invested on solar power generation, including grants from a number of countries and international bodies.

Meanwhile, a joint venture for the manufacture of photovoltaic cells is being planned between a Japanese firm and a Pakistani company, both in the private sector. By next year this venture is expected to build a capacity of manufacturing 500 KW. Another 500 KW photovoltaic cells are expected to be manufactured by Solarex, an American firm recently represented here through the American investors' outfit called OPIC.

CSO: 4600/332

LOW COST HYDEL POWER PLANTS BEING CONSIDERED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 84 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, Jan. 20: Federal Secretary for Water and Power, Mohammad Akram Khan has said that owing to power shortage in the country, the government was seriously considering to install low-cost hydel power plants wherever feasible.

Winding up a two-day-multi-topic international symposium organised by Institution of Electrical Engineers Pakistan, (IEEP), Karachi Centre yesterday he said government has worked out possibilities of installing such plants in mountainous areas where water and fall is available, but the major deterrent is the lack of grid system which makes installation of these plants highly expensive.

These micro-power plants, Mr. Akram said, can, however, be installed all along the canals as suggested in the symposium. He said government is ready to provide every type of help in implementing this scheme because it will help minimise power shortage.

Referring to power shortage in the country, the Federal Secretary said that in certain areas load-shedding will continue for years to come as very serious thinking was required to deal with the problem.

He said such symposiums as organised by the IEEP play important role in highlighting the actual problems and suggesting their solution.

The Federal Power Secretary said he was deeply impressed to see the enthusiasm shown by the engineering students at the symposium.

Dr. A. T. Khan, Vice Chancellor of NED Engineering University, addressing a technical session of the symposium disclosed that a new department of environmental engineering is being established at NED university where electrical and mechanical engineers will work together to find out ways and means to solve the pollution problem of the country, especially of Karachi. A student of Lahore Engineering University, Khawaja Moimuddin in his paper on micro-power plants claimed that atleast 1000 mw electricity can be generated through installation of micro-power plants all along the canals and equipment for these plants can be manufactured locally.

Earlier, Mr. Abrar Ali, Secretary of the Institution presented his report covering the activities of IEEP during the past year.

In all 17 papers were presented at the symposium by local and foreign experts.—PPI

COLD ROLLING MILL TO BE OPERATIVE SOON

Katichi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 28 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

The operation of the combined clude pig-iron, coak, billets, hot siking and sharing section rnd hot rolled sheets, galvanised sheets be-rolled coil conveyer machines— sides, ammonium sulphate, coaltar the two last sections of the cold and slag. All the units when fully rolling mill unit of the Pakistan operative will produce 1.25 lakh Steel has been found satisfactory tons pig-iron and 2.15 lakh coak during the dry trial run.

According to the Pakistan Steel 11 lakh tons steel annually. The sources the trial production at annual production cost has been estimated at Rs. 6000 million while annual savings will be to the completion of trial run, tune of Rs. 2,000 million.—APP.

The remaining sections of the cold rolling mill which include pickling line, reversible stand, temper mill bail furnace, etc., will also be operative by middle of the current year. With the completion of cold rolling mill, the countrys biggest coordinated system of steel units will be completed in all respects. The other units of the Pakistan Steel completed so far were the hot strip mill, billet mill, steel-making plant complex, blast furnace, coke oven by-product plant, refractory and lime calina tion plant, oxygen plant, thermal power plant and many other re-lated plants.

The cold rolling mill will pro-duce cold rolled sheets, galvanized sheets and formed sections like channel angle, girders, etc.

The Pakistan Steel products in-

CSO: 4600/332

BRIEFS

MOVING BANK HEADQUARTERS DEMANDED--Lahore, Jan. 18: The Punjab Government is understood to have resubmitted its proposal to the Federal Government for shifting of the headquarters of at least two commercial banks to either Lahore or to Islamabad. According to reliable sources, the proposal was that the headquarters of two of the five nationalised commercial banks be shifted to Islamabad from Karachi to facilitate trading and business dealing with the banks for securing loans and other facilities. Lahore was suggested as the other probable site for locating the banks headquarters. The proposal was initially mooted and discussed at the Federal Cabinet meeting held at the Governor's House, Lahore on November 14, 1981 and it was not found practicable to shift the banks headquarters from Karachi to either Islamabad or Lahore. However, as a result of this exercise in futility, the powers of the regional heads of the banks in respect of loans and credit facilities was considerably increased but even this arrangement was not been found satisfactory by the region's business and trading houses and industrialists. There has been no response from the Federal Government so far in this respect either in the affirmative or otherwise. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jan 84 p 6]

LOWERING OF PRICES DEMANDED--Peshawar, Jan. 18: A meeting held here today under the auspices of MRD has demanded that the prices of petrol and other essentials should be brought down to give some relief to the hard hit common man. The meeting was held to protest against the high cost of living. It was presided over by Abdul Rashid Sattar and addressed by Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, Arbab Saifur Rahman, Dilbar Khan of Takkar, Abdullah Sani and Akhunzada Abdul Mannan. The speakers accused the government of adding to the economic problems of the people through frequent increases in the prices of the public sector products and controlled items. They said that the sugar mills had been allowed to make huge profits at the cost of the growers and the consumers. They demanded that the prices of sugarcane should be increased reasonably. A leader of the defunct NDP Dilbar Khan of Takkar, said that the movement for the restoration of democracy had been a complete success in the three smaller provinces. He, however, regretted that Punjab had not played its part well. He suggested that the MRD leadership should ask the Punjab leaders about the indifference of that province towards the movement. Punjab being the "elder brother", he added, was supposed to play a bigger role but unfortunately these hopes had not been fulfilled. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jan 84 p 6]

DETAINEES RELEASED--Multan: Eight out of nine detenus were today released from the district jail of D. G. Khan under the orders of the Deputy Martial Law Administrator, Multan. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jan 84 p 8]

FILES ON CITIZENS PLANNED--Islamabad, Jan. 20: In an attempt to control the rising crimes, the police of the federal capital today started distributing a form to be filled by every member of a family. A citizen will have to fill in his address, profession, identity card number and the number of domestic servants. He will also give the names and addresses of his relatives living in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, with whom he has frequent social contacts. The number of vehicles owned by him and their registration number and models will also be provided to the police through this form. The addresses of the persons who usually visit the house such as doctor, barber, fitter, plumber, electrician are also to be filled in. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 84 p 1]

DEVELOPMENT OF MINES PLANNED--D. G. Khan, Jan. 20: A sum of Rs. 607.3 million has been allocated for exploring and development of mines in the Punjab this year. This was stated by Rana M. Sultan, Chief Inspector Mines, Punjab while addressing a meeting of mine inspectors and officials of Labour department. He said Institute of Mining Lahore, Geological Survey of Pakistan, Oil and Gas Development Corporation, Directorate of Industries and Mineral Development, Inspectorate of Mines and cement industry were striving for exploration and development of mines.--APP. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 84 p 6]

VEGETABLE SEED PLANT PLANNED--Islamabad, Jan. 27--The government will shortly set up a vegetable seed plant in the public sector to increase vegetable production in the country. This was announced here this morning by the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Vice Admiral Muhammad Fazil Janjua, while addressing a function to mark the fourth anniversary of Jumma Bazar. The Minister said that the Research Department of the Government, which was engaged evolving quality vegetable seed, would extend full cooperation to the private sector in setting up seed plant. He said that the Government would also look into the possibility of the setting up of another seed plant in the public sector. [Excerpt] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jan 84 p 1]

PERMISSION FOR PRIVATE T. V. STATIONS--Lahore, Jan. 21: Seth Abid, a renowned investor and businessman, has sought the permission of the Government of Pakistan for establishing a network of private television stations. He has already put forward his proposal to the higher authorities. He wants to set up his television stations in the country with the help of a renowned Pakistani financial institution working abroad. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Jan 84 p 6]

MRD-GOVERNMENT TALKS DENIED--Hyderabad, Jan. 18: The Acting President defunct PPP Sind, Makhdoom Ameen Faheem has contradicted the news items appearing in a section of Press that MRD would start negotiations with the Government. In a Press statement he said the question of holding a dialogue with government does not arise. The MRD is rigid on the four-point demands and MRD would not be flexible on these demands. He contradicted the rumours by 'mischief-mongers' that MRD was being undone. He also contradicted reports that there was a rift among the MRD leaders. He supported the statement of Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari and said the Central Committee of MRD will discuss it in the next meeting. He said that he had detailed talks with Miss Benazir Bhutto on telephone. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jan 84 p 8]